Annex to the letter dated 16 April 2009 from the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

I have the honour to transmit herewith one hard copy and one electronic copy of document No. Q/21(03/09)18-W(0201), which contains the resolutions adopted and communiqués issued at the twenty-first session of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level, held in Doha on 30 March 2009.

As you are aware, that document contains a number of important resolutions relating to the position of Arab States and to political developments in the region, in particular concerning the Palestinian question and the Arab-Israeli conflict; developments in the situations in Iraq, Lebanon, Somalia and the Sudan; and the occupation of three Arab islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates. It also contains other resolutions on political, economic and social matters. I should be grateful if you would have the document circulated as a document of the United Nations.

The summit affirmed the unacceptability of the Israeli policy of obstruction and procrastination with respect to peace efforts. It also affirmed the need to set a time frame within which Israel must honour its commitments under the peace process, primarily the immediate cessation of settlement activities in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, and take clear and specific steps towards the implementation of peace process obligations, on the basis of the terms of reference constituted by relevant United Nations resolutions, the principle of land for peace and the Arab Peace Initiative.

The Arab summit also called on the Security Council to shoulder its responsibility and take steps, using the necessary mechanisms, to promote peace efforts in the region, in accordance with the agreed terms of reference, the relevant provisions of international law and previous Security Council resolutions on the issue. The summit further requested the Security Council to provide protection for the Palestinian people and to take all necessary measures to oblige Israel's compliance with the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and with the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice concerning the separation wall and Israeli settlements, to hold Israel legally responsible for the crimes that it committed during its recent onslaught on the Gaza Strip and to prosecute those who committed such crimes.

I should also like to refer to the resolution and the communiqué relating to the decision of the International Criminal Court concerning the President of the Republic of the Sudan, both of which warn of the adverse repercussions of that decision on the efforts to achieve peace, development and unity in the Sudan. The Arab leaders called on the Security Council to assume its responsibility for bringing peace and stability to the Sudan and to support the endeavours of regional and international organizations to achieve a political settlement among the various Sudanese parties involved in the Darfur crisis.

I should like to take this opportunity to assure you of my interest in continuing cooperation between the League of Arab States and the United Nations and of my appreciation for your sincere efforts to achieve international peace and security.

(*Signed*) Amre **Moussa**

Q/21(03/09)18-W(0201)

League of Arab States

Secretariat-General
Council Division
Council Affairs Directorate

Council of the League of Arab States at summit level
21st ordinary session
Doha - State of Qatar
3 Rabi` II A.H. 1430 (30 March A.D. 2009)

- Resolutions and communiqués
- Document on strengthening Arab reconciliation and solidarity
- The Doha Declaration
- Address by His Highness Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar, to the opening session
- Address by Mr. Amre Moussa, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, to the opening session
- List of names of heads of delegations of Arab States participating in the 21st ordinary session

Contents

Subject	*Resolution/document*	*Page*
Resolutions and communiqués		7
Political issues		7
1. Reports to the Summit		7
• Report of the Presidency on the activity of the Follow-up Committee for the Implementation of Resolutions and Commitments	450	7
• Report of the Secretary General on Joint Arab Action	451	7
2. Document on strengthening Arab reconciliation and solidarity	Q/21(03/09)/10 - N(0193)	8
3. Yemeni initiative for the implementation of joint Arab action	452	9
4. Arab national security	453	10
5. The Palestinian question and developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict		10
• The Arab Peace Initiative	454	10
• Developments in the Palestinian question	455	11
• Communiqué on developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict	Q/21(03/09)11 - S(0194)	15
• Support for the budget of the Palestinian National Authority and steadfastness of the Palestinian people	456	16
• The occupied Syrian Arab Golan	457	17
• Solidarity with and support for Lebanon	458	19
6. Developments in the situation in Iraq	459	22
7. The Iranian occupation of the Arabian Gulf islands of Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, belonging to the United Arab Emirates	460	26
8. Addressing the losses and measures resulting from the dispute over the Lockerbie affair	461	28
9. The Libyan-Italian treaty on friendship, partnership and cooperation	462	29
10. Rejection of the unilateral United States sanctions on the Syrian Arab Republic	463	29
11. Outcome of the embargo imposed on Syria and the Sudan by the United States of America with regard to the purchase or hire of aircraft and spare parts, and the threat to the safety and security of civil aviation	464	30

12. Solidarity with the Sudan			31
• Rejection of the decision of Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court concerning President Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir of the Republic of the Sudan		465	31
• Communiqué of the Doha summit on solidarity with the Republic of the Sudan in rejecting the decision of Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court concerning President Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir of the Republic of the Sudan	Q/21(03/09)/09 - S(0192)		33
• Support for peace, development and unity in the Republic of the Sudan		466	34
13. Support for the Republic of Somalia		467	38
14. Support for the Union of Comoros		468	40
15. The tense situation on the Djibouti-Eritrean borders in the Ras Doumeira region of Djibouti		469	42
16. Formulation of a united Arab position on practical measures to be taken to make the Middle East a region free from nuclear weapons		470	43
17. Development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the member States of the League of Arab States		471	44
18. Formulation of a common Arab programme for the peaceful use of nuclear energy		472	45
19. Request by the United Arab Emirates to host the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) in the city of Abu Dhabi		473	46
20. Arab relations with international and regional blocs			46
• Afro-Arab cooperation		474	46
Arab-European cooperation			
• Arab-European dialogue		475	48
• The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership		476	49
• Upgrading of relations between the European Union and Israel		477	50
Arab-Asian cooperation			
• Strengthening of cooperation with Central Asia		478	50
• Arab cooperation with the People's Republic of China		479	51
• The Arab-Turkish Cooperation Forum		480	52
Arab cooperation with the Americas			
• Arab cooperation with States of South America		481	53
21. Support for the candidacy of Mr. Farouk Hosny, Minister of Culture of the Arab Republic of Egypt, for the post of Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)		482	53

Economic and social issues			54
22. Initiative of His Highness Shaikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait, concerning provision of the financial resources needed to support and fund small- and medium-size projects in the Arab world		483	54
23. Liberalization of air transport among Arab States and the opening of air space		484	55
24. Project for the promotion of the Arabic language for the information society		485	56
25. Elaboration of an Arab plan for strengthening the culture of human rights		486	60
26. The First Arab Conference of Humanitarian and Development Organizations in the Member States of the League of Arab States		487	61
27. Follow-up of implementation of the project for an Arab earth-monitoring satellite system		488	61
28. Initiative of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali of the Republic of Tunisia to declare 2010 as the International Year of Youth		489	62
Information issues			62
29. Damascus communiqué entitled "Towards the integration of information and communications for Arab human development"		490	62
Financial and administrative issues			66
30. The financial position of the Secretariat-General of the League of Arab States		491	66
31. The budget of the Secretariat-General of the League of Arab States		492	67
32. Expression of gratitude and appreciation to the Syrian Arab Republic for hosting the 20th ordinary session at summit level in Damascus		493	67
33. Venue and date of the 21st ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level		494	68
The Doha Declaration	Q/21(03/09)/16 - `A(0199)		69
Address by His Highness Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar, to the opening session	Q/21(03/09)/17 - Kh(0200)		73
Address by Mr. Amre Moussa, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, to the opening session	Q/21(03/09)/15 - Kh(0198)		77
List of names of heads of delegations of Arab States participating in the 21st ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level	Q/21(03/09)/12 - Nth(0195)		84

Q/21(03/09)32-Q(0239)

Resolutions and communiqués

Political issues

1. Reports to the summit

Report of the Presidency on the activity of the Follow-up Committee for the Implementation of Resolutions and Commitments

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General, the report of His Excellency President Bashar al-Asad of the Syrian Arab Republic to their Majesties, Excellencies and Highnesses, the Kings, Presidents and Amirs of the Arab States, on follow-up to the implementation of the Damascus summit resolutions (20th ordinary session, March 2008) and the final report of the Follow-up Committee for the Implementation of Resolutions and Commitments,

Pursuant to the Statutes of the Committee,

Resolves

1. To express gratitude and appreciation to His Excellency President Bashar al-Asad of the Syrian Arab Republic, President of the 20th ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level, for his supervision of the efforts to follow up implementation of the resolutions of the Damascus summit (2008);

2. To express gratitude to the member States of the Follow-up Committee for the Implementation of Resolutions and Commitments and to the Secretary-General for their commendable efforts in following up implementation of the resolutions of that summit.

(Summit resolution 450, 21st ordinary session - 30 March 2009)

Report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General, the report of the Secretary-General dealing with various aspects of joint Arab action and the annex to the report of the Secretary-General on follow-up of the status of development and modernization in the Arab world,

Resolves

1. To commend the report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action;

2. To take note of the content of the report on follow-up of the status of development and modernization in the Arab world, express gratitude to the Secretary-General and affirm that periodic reports on this matter are to be submitted to the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level.

(Summit resolution 451, 21st ordinary session - 30 March 2009)

Q/21(03/09)/10-N(0193)

2. Document on strengthening Arab reconciliation and solidarity

Doha - State of Qatar
3 Rabi` II A.H. 1430 (30 March A.D. 2009)

We, the leaders of the Arab States,

Aware of the grave repercussions of Arab disputes and their adverse effects on the interests of the Arab nation and issues pertaining to its future,

Proceeding from the call by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, which launched the process of Arab reconciliation at the Economic, Social and Development Summit in Kuwait, and from the importance of greater efforts to clear the atmosphere and build bridges to overcome differences concerning joint Arab action, in which all Arab States are involved,

Given that our Arab nation looks forward to the Doha summit as a positive turning point for strengthening the progress of reconciliation, affirming Arab solidarity and linking the efforts made in this regard to their desired purpose,

Affirm our resolve and determination to forge ahead with this progress, focusing on the aspirations and hopes of our Arab peoples and on our national interests and to agree on a set of principles and bases for Arab action to strengthen reconciliation and solidarity, as follows:

1. Commitment to the Charter of the League of Arab States, in that the League is the term of reference for joint Arab action and aims to develop that action and implement its mechanisms in all fields;

2. The need to devote earnest and sincere attention to the implementation of our previous undertakings set forth the Document of the Covenant, Accord and Solidarity, adopted at the Tunis summit in May 2004, insofar as it constitutes the fundamental basis for clearing the atmosphere, promoting inter-Arab relations, achieving Arab solidarity and safeguarding supreme national interests;

3. The importance of candid talk, transparency, dialogue and consultation as the method for resolving Arab disputes and the importance of avoiding any fuelling of dissension and use of aggressive, provocative or inflammatory language;

4. Construction of a unified strategic vision for dealing with political, security, economic and other challenges that threaten pan-Arab security;

5. Emphasis on the centrality of the Palestinian question and the establishment of an independent Palestinian State, with Jerusalem as its capital, and the importance of commitment to the agreed Arab strategy for the achievement of just and lasting peace in the Middle East;

6. Implementation of the mechanisms of joint Arab action for the settlement of conflicts, including those stipulated in the Document of the Covenant, Accord and Solidarity, and a request for the Secretary-General to implement these mechanisms in order to achieve the supreme interests of joint Arab action and ensure conflict management with a view to avoiding complications harmful to Arab relations.

This Document was done in the city of Doha on 3 Rabi` II A.H. 1430 (30 March A.H. 2009) in one original kept at the Secretariat-General of the League of Arab States, with a true copy of the original transmitted to each signatory State.

Signatures

For the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

For the State of the United Arab Emirates

For the Kingdom of Bahrain

For the Republic of Tunisia

For the Democratic People's Republic of Algeria

For the Republic of Djibouti

For the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

For the Republic of the Sudan

For the Syrian Arab Republic

For the Republic of Somalia

For the Republic of Iraq

For the Sultanate of Oman

For the State of Palestine

For the State of Qatar

For the Union of the Comoros

For the State of Kuwait

For the Lebanese Republic

For the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

For the Arab Republic of Egypt

For the Kingdom of Morocco

For the Islamic Republic of Mauritania

For the Republic of Yemen

For the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States

3. Yemeni initiative for the implementation of joint Arab action

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General and the note verbale from the Embassy of the Republic of Yemen dated 28 March 2009,

Resolves

To charge the Council of the League at ministerial level to study the initiative of the Republic of Yemen for the implementation of joint Arab action and submit a

report in that regard to the Council of the League at summit level at its 22nd ordinary session.

(Summit resolution 452, 21st ordinary session - 30 March 2009)

4. Arab national security

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General, the report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action, the recommendation of the Follow-up Committee for the Implementation of Resolutions and Commitments, the proposals and recommendations of the open-ended expert group on challenges to Arab national security at its meeting of 26 and 27 January 2009, Riyadh summit resolution 366 (19th ordinary session, 29 March 2007), Damascus summit resolution 407 (20th ordinary session, 30 March 2008) on Arab national security, and resolutions 6790 (128th ordinary session, 5 September 2007), 6855 (129th ordinary session, 5 March 2008), 6296 (130th ordinary session - 8 September 2008) and 7004 (131st ordinary session, 3 March 2009) of the Council of the League Arab States at ministerial level,

Resolves

1. To charge the agencies involved in joint Arab action, each within its sphere of competence, with the follow-up of activities and the development of implementing plans and programmes in the field of Arab national security in the light of the proposals and recommendations submitted by the open-ended group of experts and through the mechanisms and agencies provided for in the Charter of the League of Arab States, the Treaty on Joint Defence and Economic Cooperation and the Statutes of the Arab Peace and Security Council;

2. To charge the Council of the League of Arab States at ministerial level with studying the proposals submitted by the Secretary-General on strengthening and developing the Arab Peace and Security Council.

(Summit resolution 453, 21st ordinary session – 30 March 2009)

5. The Palestinian question and developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict

The Arab Peace Initiative

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General, the report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action and the recommendations of the second ministerial meeting of the Follow-up Committee for the Implementation of Resolutions and Commitments, held in Damascus on 16 March 2009,

Recalling Beirut summit resolution 221 (28 March 2002), which launched the Arab Peace Initiative and which was affirmed by the Riyadh summit (2007) and the Damascus summit (2008),

Mindful of the danger posed by Israel's persistent disregard of Arab and international peace efforts, defiance of resolutions of international legitimacy, rejection of the peace process, adoption of unilateral measures gravely detrimental

to the outcome of the final status negotiations and by its attempts to Judaize the city of Jerusalem and change its historic and demographic features, the construction and expansion of settlements, the ongoing construction of the apartheid wall, the imposition of the blockade on the Gaza Strip, the closure of crossing points and denial of the daily needs of towns in the West Bank,

Having reviewed the disastrous effects of the brutal Israeli onslaught against the Gaza Strip and its serious adverse repercussions for the security and stability of the entire region,

Affirming that Palestinian national unity is an indispensable condition for the achievement of national aims, for the establishment of a Palestinian State, with Jerusalem as its capital, and for the success of Arab action in this regard, in accordance with the Arab Peace Initiative,

Resolves

1. To affirm adherence to the Arab Peace Initiative as a strategic Arab option for the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the region in accordance with the political context, the basis of which is that the Peace Initiative put forward today will not remain on the table for long, that the continued promotion of this Initiative by the Arab side is linked to Israeli acceptance of it, that its implementation is linked to Israeli's fulfilment of its obligations under the fundamental terms of reference for the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace and that this peace is unattainable as long as Israel persists in its intransigence and rejection of the Arab Peace Initiative;

2. To affirm continuation of the task assigned to the Arab Ministerial Committee for the Arab Peace Initiative and to the Secretary-General of conducting a comprehensive evaluation and review of the plan for Arab action in the face of efforts to revive the peace process in the region in the light of regional and international developments and the challenges facing the region, particularly in the wake of the Israeli military incursion into the Gaza Strip.

(Summit resolution 454, 21st ordinary session – 30 March 2009)

On the basis of the firm and principled stand of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya concerning the true requirements for ending the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya affirms its reservation to the Arab Peace Initiative and other terms of reference, which are not conducive to the establishment of a democratic State on all Palestinian soil or to the return of Palestinian refugees.

Developments in the Palestinian question

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General, the report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action and the recommendations of the second ministerial meeting of the Follow-up Committee for the Implementation of Resolutions and Commitments, held in Damascus on 16 March 2009,

Recalling Arab summit resolutions, in particular those of the Beirut summit (2002), the Sharm el-Sheikh summit (2003), the Tunis summit (2004), the Algiers summit (2005), the Sudan summit (2006), the Riyadh summit (2007) and the Damascus summit (2008),

Referring to resolutions of international legitimacy relating to the question of Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict, in particular relevant Security Council resolutions relating to the establishment of an independent Palestinian State, with Jerusalem as its capital, and the process for a lasting and comprehensive peace,

Mindful of the serious repercussions of the Israeli incursion into the Gaza Strip and the danger posed by Israel's persistent disregard of Arab and international peace efforts, defiance of resolutions of international legitimacy and adoption of unilateral measures, such as the Judaization of Jerusalem, the construction and expansion of settlements, the imposition of the blockade, the closure of crossing points and assassinations,

Condemning the continuing escalation of the brutal Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people,

Affirming the importance of Palestinian national unity as the sole means of protecting the Palestinian national project and the importance of respect for Palestinian national legitimacy and the integrity of the Palestinian territories,

Resolves

1. To salute in admiration and esteem the Palestinian people in their heroic resistance in the face of the iniquitous Israeli incursion into the Gaza Strip; support their steadfastness and opposition to this incursion; vehemently condemn the savage Israeli attack on the Gaza Strip, which killed and injured thousands of Palestinians, in particular civilians, including children and women, and devastated the infrastructure and public and private institutions on a massive and comprehensive scale; call for a halt to the Israeli aggression, the establishment of a ceasefire and the lifting of the unjust blockade; hold Israel, the occupying Power, legally and materially responsible for the war crimes that it perpetrated and for its violations of international law and international humanitarian law; and call on the relevant United Nations institutions to investigate the Israeli war crimes committed against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip as a result of this brute aggression, prosecute those responsible for such crimes and refer them to international courts;

2. To support efforts by the Secretariat-General to investigate Israeli war crimes committed against the Palestinian people during the Israeli incursion into Gaza and its call for action to take these crimes to the competent international courts;

3. To condemn Israel's continuation of its blockade on the Gaza Strip, which has led to a serious and unprecedented deterioration in the humanitarian situation and living conditions of Palestinian civilians, demand that it dismantle the blockade immediately and open all crossing points, and call on States, Arab and international institutions and civil-society organizations to continue providing support and humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people;

4. To commend Arab efforts and the endeavours of the Arab Republic of Egypt to establish a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip and reach a truce agreement, welcome the Cairo Declaration for the start of national reconciliation, issued by the meeting of factions in Cairo on 26 February 2009, and call on all Palestinian parties to respond to this Egyptian effort and welcome the outcomes of the international donor conference, held in Sharm el- Sheikh on 2 March 2009, at the invitation of the Arab Republic of Egypt, with the aim of delivering the funding needed for reconstruction of the Gaza Strip;

5. To hold Israel accountable for placing obstacles in the way of efforts to establish a truce and for the ensuing increase in the suffering of the Palestinian people;

6. To express gratitude to the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Governments and peoples of all Arab States for the urgent humanitarian aid provided to the Gaza Strip and their various contributions to the United Nations Works and Relief Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Middle East, the World Food Programme and concerned international institutions;

7. To reaffirm that a just and comprehensive peace is the strategic option, that the peace process is a comprehensive and indivisible process, and that a just and comprehensive peace in the region is attainable only through full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, including the occupied Syrian Arab Golan, to the line of 4 June 1967, and from the territories still occupied in the Lebanese south, and through a just and agreed solution to the Palestinian refugee problem, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 194 of 1948, the rejection of all forms of settlement and the establishment of an independent sovereign State, with East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with the Arab Peace Initiative, adopted at the Beirut summit (2002) and reaffirmed at Arab summits, and with resolutions of international legitimacy and their relevant terms of reference;

8. To affirm the Arab character of Jerusalem and reject all illegitimate Israeli measures aimed at the Judaization and annexation of the city and the displacement of its inhabitants, in particular following Israel's most recent decision to demolish 88 homes and drive 1,500 Jerusalemites out of the Bustan area in Salwan as a preliminary to its demolition and the construction of a public park; condemn the confiscation of land and the construction of settlement units in the area surrounding Jerusalem; condemn the excavation work beneath and around al-Aqsa mosque, which is consequently under threat of collapse; call on the relevant international organizations and institutions, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to shoulder their responsibilities in preserving holy Islamic and Christian sites; and call on Arab States to take swift action as a matter of necessity to thwart Israeli designs;

9. To affirm that the State of Palestine is a full partner in the peace process and that support for the Palestine Liberation Organization in any future negotiations on final status issues must continue, also affirm that the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank, including East Jerusalem, are a single geographic unit that is indivisible for the establishment of an independent Palestinian State on all territories occupied since 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and reject all attempts aimed at fragmenting the Palestinian territories, as well as all unilateral measures taken by Israel, first and foremost the settlement practices in the occupied Arab lands and the attempts to Judaize Jerusalem;

10. To respect Palestinian national legitimacy under the leadership of President Mahmoud Abbas, commend his efforts with all Palestinian and Arab parties in the area of national reconciliation and successful dialogue, respect the legitimate institutions of the Palestinian National Authority emanating from the Palestine Liberation Organization, including the elected Palestinian Legislative Council, abide by the unity of the Palestinian decision in order to uphold the gains and rights of the Palestinian people, which are at risk, and affirm that Palestinian national

reconciliation constitutes the only genuine guarantee of safeguarding the Palestinian territories;

11. To affirm the illegality of Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories, which constitute a violation of international law, United Nations resolutions and the Fourth Geneva Convention; also affirm the need for Israel to declare a full and immediate ceasefire, implement relevant international resolutions, in particular Security Council resolutions 465 (1980) and 497 (1981), which stress the illegality of settlement, and dismantle existing settlements under international supervision of all settlement activities aimed at changing the demographic composition and geographic nature of the occupied territories; seek removal of the apartheid wall and an end to all Israeli measures for the Judaization of Jerusalem, as well as an end to the economic and military blockade; hold Israel to account for compensating the Palestinian people for all of the heavy losses incurred as a result of this blockade; and call on it to remove the military roadblocks between West Bank towns and open all crossing points in the Gaza Strip;

12. To prevail upon the international community to exert pressure on Israel to release all Palestinian prisoners and detainees, some 11,000 of whom, including political and legislative leaders, are languishing in the prisons of the occupation, and to call on it not to neglect this issue, in accordance with the rules and laws of international legitimacy, primarily international law, international humanitarian law and the Fourth Geneva Conventions of 1949;

13. To call on the Secretary-General of the United Nations to make timely efforts and take all necessary measures for the urgent and unconditional release of Palestinian women and children imprisoned in Israeli jails and provide international protection for them, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1325, adopted in October 2000, and relevant United Nations resolutions, in particular Commission on the Status of Women resolution 48/3 of March 2004;

14. To call on the Security Council to assume its responsibilities and take action to adopt the steps and mechanisms needed to resolve all aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict and achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region on the basis of the two-State solution in accordance with 1967 borders, the relevant provisions of international law and previous Security Council resolutions on this matter;

15. To call on the Security Council to assume its responsibilities towards the Palestinian people by dispatching international observers and international forces to protect the Palestinian people from massacres and ongoing aggression, calling on Israel to desist fully from its constant military attacks and operations and from its violation of the relevant provisions of international law, and compelling Israel (the occupying Power) to comply with the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and with the legal opinion issued by the International Criminal Court.

(Summit resolution 455, 21st ordinary session – 30 March 2009)

Q/21/(03/09)11-S(0194)

Communiqué on developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict

Doha, 3 Rabi' II A.H. 1430 (30 March A.D. 2009)

The Arab leaders together considered the developments in the Palestinian question and the Arab-Israeli conflict and the outcome of Arab and international efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region, in the light of Israel's intransigence, its rejection of the resolutions of international legitimacy for the achievement of peace and the grave repercussions recently experienced in the region as a result of the Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip.

On the basis of the need for a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict in the context of international legitimacy, the leaders affirmed that a just and comprehensive peace in the region was attainable only through an end to the Israeli occupation and the withdrawal from all occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, including the occupied Syrian Arab Golan, to the line of 4 June 1967, as well as from the remaining occupied territories in south Lebanon, and through an agreed and just solution to the Palestinian refugee problem, the rejection of all forms of settlement and the establishment of an independent sovereign Palestinian State, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

The leaders also affirmed the unacceptability of the Israeli obstruction and procrastination, in which successive Israeli Governments have persisted, and similarly affirmed the need to set a specific time frame for Israel's fulfilment of its obligations vis-à-vis the peace process, primarily the immediate cessation of settlement activities and action to take clear and determined steps to carry out the commitments under the peace process based on the terms of reference represented in relevant United Nations resolutions, the principle of land for peace and also the Arab Peace Initiative.

The Arab leaders also affirmed in the strongest terms their condemnation of the continuation and escalating growth of Israeli settlement in the occupied Palestinian territories, as well as their vehement condemnation of the decisions of the Israeli Government to demolish Palestinian homes in East Jerusalem with the aim of altering its geographical and demographic status and its Arab identity, separating it from the remaining occupied territories and imposing new facts on the ground in a bid to outdo the final status negotiations and in clear breach of the resolutions of international legitimacy and the rules of international law. They furthermore welcomed the European Union position in that regard and called on the Security Council and the international community to shoulder their responsibilities and take measures to guarantee the cessation of Israeli settlement operations.

The leaders held Israel legally responsible for the war crimes and crimes against humanity that it perpetrated against the Palestinian people, affirming their determination to prosecute the perpetrators of these crimes and ensure that they do not escape justice.

The leaders rejected Israeli moves aimed at diverting the peace process and its political commitments onto a track confined to an economic and security approach that entrenches the occupation and increases tension and instability in the region.

The Arab leaders considered the continuation of these practices by successive Israeli Governments of varying persuasions as tantamount to a rejection of the peace efforts and the two-State solution adopted by the international community, which undermines Arab and international efforts to achieve peace, security and stability in the region. It also necessarily means that Israel is not regarded as a partner in the peace process and furthermore changes the Arab approach to the achievement of a just and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The leaders expressed their hope that the new United States Administration would play the role of impartial mediator in the context of a new strategy for the achievement of peace in the region and called on it to adopt a decisive position in countering Israel's continuation of the blockade on Gaza and its illegal practices, in particular the measures to Judaize Jerusalem and expand its settlement activities, its violations of the rights of the Palestinian people and its failure to take any serious action for the achievement of peace. They also expressed their satisfaction with the first positive attitudes expressed by the new United States Administration towards the peace process.

The leaders affirmed the Arab commitment to provision of the necessary financing and support for reconstruction of the Gaza Strip and called on the international community to assume its responsibilities with regard to the deteriorating humanitarian conditions in Gaza, since the reconstruction process cannot withstand obstruction under any Israeli pretext. They also called on Israel to open the crossing points, end the blockade on the Gaza Strip, remove the roadblocks and search points in the West Bank and compel Israel to desist from attacks on the occupied Palestinian territories and from denying their needs.

The leaders called on the Palestinian factions participating in the Palestinian National Dialogue Conference, sponsored by the Arab Republic of Egypt, to expedite Palestinian national reconciliation in order to restore the Palestinian position to unanimity in the interest of the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian people. They further called on the international community and concerned parties to respect matters agreed by the Palestinians and to impose no conditions in that regard.

The leaders charged both the ministerial committee on the Arab Peace Initiative and the Secretary-General with pursuing efforts and contacts with the international parties concerned with the progress of the peace endeavours and to take the necessary action to convene a joint meeting with the Ministerial Council of the European Union and also with the Quartet to explain the Arab position in this regard.

The leaders also decided to charge the Council of the League at the ministerial level to conduct an assessment and review of the plan for Arab action in the face of efforts for the achievement of peace in the region.

Support for the budget of the Palestinian National Authority and steadfastness of the Palestinian people

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General, the report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action and the recommendations of the second

ministerial meeting of the Follow-up Committee for the Implementation of Resolutions and Commitments, held in Damascus on 16 March 2009,

Affirming the importance of the pledge by Member States to pay the contributions incumbent on Member States in support of the budget of the Palestinian National Authority, in accordance with the resolutions of Arab summits in Beirut (2002), Sharm el-Sheikh (2003), Tunis (2004), Algiers (2005), Khartoum (2006), Riyadh (2007) and Damascus (2008),

Resolves

1. To extend gratitude to those Arab States having met their commitments and their contribution in whole or in part in support of the resources of the al-Aqsa Fund and the Jerusalem Intifada Fund, in accordance with the resolutions of the Beirut summit in 2002 (14th ordinary session), and call on Arab States not having fulfilled their commitments of additional support to do so promptly;

2. To extend gratitude to those Arab States having met their commitments in support of the budget of the Palestinian National Authority, call on other Arab States to settle their arrears with utmost speed and affirm the importance of continued support for the budget of the Palestinian National Authority;

3. To call on the Arab States to continue to support the budget of the Palestinian National Authority for a new period, beginning on 1 April 2009, in accordance with the mechanism approved by the Beirut summit in 2002.

(Summit resolution 456, 21st ordinary session – 30 March 2009)

The occupied Syrian Arab Golan

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General and the report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action,

Affirming the resolutions of Arab summit conferences, most recently Damascus summit resolution 412 (20th ordinary session, 30 March 2008),

Resolves

1. To affirm the solid support and backing of the Arab States for Syria's just demand and right to recover the entire occupied Syrian Arab Golan up to the line of 4 June 1967, on the basis of the principles of the peace process and resolutions of international legitimacy, and build on achievements accomplished within the framework of the Madrid peace conference, held in 1991;

2. To reaffirm all of its resolutions, most recently Damascus summit resolution 412 (20th ordinary session, 30 March 2008), which stipulates the rejection of all measures taken by the Israeli occupation authorities aimed at changing the legal, physical and demographic status of the occupied Syrian Arab Golan, and to consider Israeli measures designed to reinforce its control over it as illegal, null and void and a violation of international agreements and of the Charter and resolutions of the United Nations, in particular Security Council resolution 497 (1981) and General Assembly resolution 63/99 of 5 December 2008, which affirms that Israel's decision of 14 December 1981 to annex the occupied Syrian Arab Golan is illegal, null and

void, without legal effect and constitutes a grave violation of Security Council resolution 497 (1981);

3. To reaffirm that Israel's continued occupation of the occupied Syrian Arab Golan since 1967 represents an ongoing threat to peace and security in the region and the world;

4. To condemn Israel for its practices in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan in respect of the seizure of land and water resources, the building of a rock-fill dam near the town of Quneitra to steal water and deprive Syrian farmers of the most important source of water for the irrigation of their farms and watering of their livestock, the construction and expansion of settlements and transporting of settlers thereto, the exploitation of natural resources, construction projects, the latest of which was the announcement of a tender for the sale of 10 zones in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan to establish vineyards and wineries, and the imposition of an economic boycott and export ban on the agricultural produce of the Arab population;

5. To affirm the Arab position of full solidarity with Syria and Lebanon, stand with them in confronting the continuing Israeli aggression and threats, considering any aggression against them as aggression against the Arab nation, and condemn the economic sanctions imposed on Syria;

6. To support the steadfastness of the Arab population of the occupied Syrian Arab Golan, standing beside them in their resistance to the Israeli occupation and its repressive practices and their determination to hold on to their land and their Syrian Arab identity; affirm the need to apply the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 in respect of the inhabitants of the occupied Syrian Arab Golan; and condemn, pursuant to the principles of international law and rules of international legitimacy, the Israeli occupation authorities for their gross violations of all the rights of the Syrian inhabitants, old and young, living under occupation in the Golan and the ensuing displacement and expulsion of thousands, the pillage of their lands, separation of families and the consequences of this situation on the lives of the children and their education, in addition to numerous other violations of children's rights in contravention of international obligations arising from the international Convention on the Rights of the Child;

7. To call on the United Nations, the Security Council and the Human Rights Council to ensure Israel's respect for the Fourth Geneva Convention and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and seek to facilitate visits by the population of the occupied Syrian Arab Golan to their families and relatives in their motherland of Syria, via the Quneitra crossing, under the supervision of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC);

8. To condemn the practices and provocations of the Israeli occupation forces against the inhabitants of the Syrian village of Ghajar in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan, with the aim of partitioning it, displacing its inhabitants and constructing a separation wall between the inhabitants and their lands and livelihood; consider Israel's forcible transfer of the civilian population to the southern part of the village as a violation of international humanitarian law, especially the Fourth Geneva Convention and, in accordance with article 7 of the Statute of the International Criminal Court, "a crime against humanity"; further consider any partition of the village as undermining Syria's sovereignty over it; call on the international

community to assume its responsibilities by exerting pressure on Israel to prevent it from partitioning of the village and put an end to the humanitarian, social and economic suffering of its inhabitants labouring under the occupation; and support Syria in reserving its right to take whatever measures necessary to prevent partition of the village;

9. To call on the Secretariat of the United Nations, the Security Council, the Human Rights Council and civil-society organizations working in the area of human rights and international humanitarian law to put pressure on Israel to release all Syrian prisoners and detainees from the occupied Syrian Arab Golan being held in Israeli jails and also call on international humanitarian organizations to prevail upon Israel to allow ICRC representatives, accompanied by medical specialists, to visit these prisoners and detainees to examine their physical and psychological health, save their lives and relieve the sufferings caused by the repressive Israeli practices and inhuman conditions of detention under which they live inside Israeli prisons, as well as the policy of physical and mental subjugation practised by the Israeli authorities, which deprives them of their most basic human and social rights, causing their health to deteriorate and endangering their lives;

10. To uphold the resolutions of international legitimacy requiring the non-recognition of any situation resulting from Israeli settlement activity in the occupied Arab lands, insofar as it is an illegal activity giving rise to neither right nor obligation and that the construction of settlements and housing of settlers therein represent a serious violation of the Geneva Conventions, a war crime under the First Protocol additional thereto and a violation of the principles of the peace process, which require that all Israeli settlement activities in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan and the occupied Arab lands be terminated;

11. To urge the international community to uphold the resolutions of international legitimacy rejecting Israeli settlement activity in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan by condemning the practices of the Israeli Government, which declared its intention on 31 December 2003 to establish nine new settlements, expand existing ones, double the number of settlers and allocate the appropriations necessary to implement this, contrary to the peaceful Arab and international approaches aimed at achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region on the basis of the resolutions of international legitimacy and the Arab Peace Initiative adopted by the Beirut Summit in 2002;

12. To condemn the policy of the Israeli Government, which has wrecked the peace process and led to the continued escalation of tension in the region, and call on the international community to prevail upon Israel to apply United Nations resolutions relating to full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Arab Golan and all occupied Arab lands to the line of 4 June 1967.

(Summit resolution 457, 21st ordinary session – 30 March 2009)

Solidarity with and support for Lebanon

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General and the report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action,

Recalling the resolutions of Arab summit conferences, most recently Damascus summit resolution 413 (20th ordinary session, 30 March 2008),

Taking note of the latest domestic and international developments relating to Lebanon,

Resolves

1. To salute the steadfastness of Lebanon and its heroic resistance to the iniquitous Israeli aggression and in particular to the events of July 2006, to ask God for mercy on the souls of the Lebanese martyrs and to regard the solidarity and unity of the Lebanese people in the face of aggression as a guarantee of the future security and stability of Lebanon;

2. To affirm full Arab solidarity with Lebanon and provide political and economic support to the country and its Government in order to safeguard Lebanese national unity, Lebanon's security and stability and its sovereignty over all of its territory;

3. To commend the national role played by the Lebanese army in the Lebanese south and all Lebanese regions, support the task of this army, as determined by the Lebanese Cabinet, of extending the sovereignty of the Lebanese State over all of its territory and safeguarding national peace, and affirm the need to build the capacities of the Lebanese army and security forces to enable them to perform the national tasks with which they are shouldered;

4. To condemn the Israeli breaches and violations of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) and hold Israel liable for these violations, call on the Security Council to assume its responsibilities in compelling Israel to observe a full and firm ceasefire and cease its land, sea and air violations of Lebanese sovereignty, deplore Israeli threats made to Lebanon and its civilian facilities and its infrastructure by senior Israeli officials, and affirm Lebanon's right over its waters, in accordance with international law, in the face of Israeli ambitions;

5. The Council also affirms:

- The need for Israel to withdraw from the Lebanese Shab'a farmlands and the Kafr Shuba hills, welcoming the seven-point plan presented by the Lebanese Government, and from the Lebanese part of the village of Ghajar to behind the Blue Line, on the basis of relevant international resolutions, in particular Security Council resolution 1701 (2006);

- The call for Israel to hand over full information concerning the sites of the cluster bombs that it rained down on Lebanon during the aggression in the summer of 2006 and to continue providing support for Lebanon in order to remove the cluster bombs and the mines laid by Israel during its occupation of Lebanese land;

- The promotion of close cooperation between the security forces and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) with a view to strengthening security and stability in south Lebanon in accordance with Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), and commendation of the contribution of States to UNIFIL;

6. To hold Israel fully responsible for the aggression to which Lebanon was subjected in the summer of 2006, for the results of that aggression and for the deliberate targeting of civilians and infrastructure, which constitutes a gross and serious breach of international law, particularly international humanitarian law and the Geneva Conventions of 1949; hold Israel also responsible for the payment of compensation to the Lebanese Republic and Lebanese citizens for the grievous direct and indirect losses suffered by the Lebanese people and economy as a result of Israeli aggression; consider Israel's aggression against Lebanon as constituting a war crime, the perpetrators of which must be prosecuted before the competent international authorities; and, with reference to United Nations General Assembly resolution 62/188 of 19 December 2007 concerning the environmental pollution during the July 2006 aggression, to hold Israel responsible for the resulting damage and demand that it pay immediate and sufficient compensation to Lebanon and other States affected by this pollution;

7. To support the efforts of the Lebanese Government in establishing security and political and economic stability, as well as in combating terrorism; salute the martyrs of the Lebanese army and security forces who died defending Lebanon's sovereignty and unity; affirm the continuation of support for the Lebanese Government in its efforts to modernize and revive the Lebanese economy, as expressed at the Arab and international conference for support to Lebanon (Paris III); and urge participating States and funds to complete fulfilment of their commitments;

8. To affirm support for Lebanon in respect of its sovereign right to exercise its political options within the principles and institutions of the Constitution, taking into account its right to establish relations with brotherly and friendly States on the basis of mutual respect for sovereignty and independence, its national interests, good neighbourliness, equality and generosity, as well as reaffirm the right of the Lebanese State to protect and guard its borders against all violations and breaches, including the infiltration of arms;

9. To take note of the commencement of work by the tribunal of an international character and welcome the efforts made to uncover the truth about the assassination of Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and his bodyguards in order to ensure that justice prevails and to establish security and stability in Lebanon;

10. To affirm the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes, emphasizing the rejection of any form of settlement and commending and supporting the clear and firm position of the Palestinian leadership that rejects the notion of settlement for Palestinian refugees in host States, particularly Lebanon; caution that failure to resolve the issue of refugees residing in Lebanon on the basis of a return to their homes, in accordance with resolutions of international legitimacy and the principles of international law, or attempts to resettle them, will disrupt security and stability in the region and hinder the achievement of a just peace; welcome the efforts of the Lebanese Government to strengthen the Lebanese-Palestinian dialogue with a view to addressing the vital social, economic, legal and security issues of Palestinian refugees in the camps, in cooperation with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), and to dealing with pending security issues in accordance with the decisions of the Lebanese National Dialogue Conference; commend the efforts of the Lebanese Government to reconstruct Nahr al-Barid camp; call on States and

organizations to fulfil their commitments as stated at the Vienna conference for the reconstruction of Nahr al-Barid camp and provide aid to that end; and welcome the principled decision of the Lebanese Cabinet to establish diplomatic relations with the State of Palestine;

11. To affirm condemnation of international terrorism, which the Arab States are actively engaged in fighting, and the important need to make a distinction between terrorism and legitimate resistance against Israeli occupation, in that resistance activity should not be considered a terrorist act and, consequently, resistance fighters should not be included on terrorist lists;

12. To welcome again the Doha Agreement concluded under the kind auspices of His Highness Shaikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar, and the efforts of the Arab Ministerial Committee chaired by His Excellency Shaikh Hamad bin Jasim bin Jabar Al Thani, Prime Minister of Qatar, and Mr. Amre Moussa, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States; express appreciation and esteem for the important role played by General Michel Suleiman, President of the Republic, in sponsoring and presiding over the national dialogue sessions, fulfilling and implementing its previous outcomes, completing national reconciliation and driving forward Lebanon's foreign relations, thereby affirming his role as President of the State and symbol of national unity; express its willingness to provide any assistance in this field in support of the efforts of the President of the Republic, in cooperation with the Government of National Unity led by Prime Minister Fouad Siniora; express its welcome of the decision by Lebanon and Syria to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level, adopted during the official visit by President Michel Suleiman to Damascus, and of the opening of the two embassies in Beirut and Damascus; and welcome the completion of steps between the two countries in the forthcoming stage in respect of efforts to put Lebanese-Syrian relations on the path that will achieve the interests of the two sister countries;

13. To commend and support the efforts of the current and former summit presidencies and the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Arab States, Lebanese constitutional institutions and various political forces to establish stability and strengthen sustainable economic growth in Lebanon in order to safeguard its unity, security and stability.

(Summit resolution 458, 21st ordinary session – 30 March 2009)

6. Developments in the situation in Iraq

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General and the report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab Action,

On the basis of Arab summit resolutions on the situation in Iraq, most recently Damascus summit resolution 415 (20th ordinary session, 30 March 2008);

Welcoming the final communiqué of the international Expanded Ministerial Conference of the Neighbouring Countries of Iraq, Egypt, Bahrain, the Permanent Members of the Security Council and the Group of Eight (G-8), held in the city of Sharm el-Sheikh in the Arab Republic of Egypt on 4 May 2007, the outcomes of the conference of the International Compact with Iraq, held in Sharm el-Sheikh on 3 May 2007, the communiqué issued by the Second Expanded Ministerial Conference

of the Neighbouring Countries of Iraq, Egypt, Bahrain, the Permanent Members of the Security Council and the G-8, held in Istanbul on 3 November 2007, and the communiqué issued by the Third Expanded Ministerial Conference of the Neighbouring Countries of Iraq, Egypt, Bahrain, the Permanent Members of the Security Council and the G-8, held in Kuwait on 29 May 2008,

Recalling the recommendations of the two international conferences on Iraq held in Sharm el-Sheikh on 22 and 23 November 2004 and Brussels on 22 June 2005,

Referring to Security Council resolution 1618 (2005), which condemns all terrorist acts in Iraq,

Commending the resolution on the situation in Iraq adopted by the 34th session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, held in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan from 15 to 17 May 2007,

Recalling the resolutions of the Security Council and the Council of Arab Ministers for Foreign Affairs and the statements issued by meetings of the neighbouring countries of Iraq concerning respect for the sovereignty of Iraq, its territorial integrity and the inviolability of its internationally recognized borders,

Taking cognizance of the recent cessation of Turkish military operations inside Iraqi territory and the withdrawal of Turkish forces,

Resolves

1. To affirm that the Arab vision for a political and security solution to the challenges facing the Iraqi people relies on the following key elements:

- Respect for the unity, sovereignty and independence of Iraq and its Arab-Islamic identity, rejection of calls for its partition and affirmation of non-interference in its internal affairs;
- The understanding that, in order to achieve stability in Iraq and overcome the current crisis, a parallel security and political solution is required to address the causes of the crisis and eradicate sectarian strife and terrorism;
- Affirmation of respect for the will of all elements of the Iraqi people to determine their political future, the achievement of security and stability being the responsibility of the Government of National Unity, Iraqi constitutional institutions and the political leadership, with the support and assistance of the Arab States and neighbouring States for all efforts to achieve national reconciliation, including those of the Iraqi Government to:
  - Establish a political process to ensure full participation of the various elements of the Iraqi people;
  - Confront sectarianism and endeavour to remove it once and for all, repudiate and resist groups seeking to fuel civil strife and convene an inclusive conference on the Iraqi National Accord at the earliest and most opportune time;

- Speed up the constitutional review of the disputed articles of the Constitution to achieve Iraqi national accord in accordance with the prescribed and agreed mechanisms;
- Affirm equality of citizenship as a basis for construction of the new Iraq;
- Strive for a fair distribution of the wealth of Iraq across all regions of the country and to all groups of the Iraqi people;
- Dissolution by the Government of the various militias in Iraq, without exception, and an end to armed attacks;
- Expedite the building and upgrading of the Iraqi armed forces and security forces on a national and professional basis, leading to the departure of all foreign forces from Iraq;

2. To affirm the importance of an active role by neighbouring States in helping Iraq to strengthen security and stability, ensure non-intervention in its internal affairs, resist terrorism, halt acts of violence threatening the unity of its territory and people and support efforts to achieve Iraqi national reconciliation and accord, as well as affirm the importance of coordination and cooperation between their security agencies to strengthen border controls and prevent infiltration across their common borders with Iraq;

3. To commend the efforts of the Iraqi Government to achieve national reconciliation and establish security and stability by legislating for a general amnesty and for justice and accountability, thereby leading to the release of those held for questioning whose guilt has not been established and to the reinstatement of many dismissed persons to their previous jobs;

4. To take note of Iraq's signature of the Agreement on the Withdrawal of United States Forces from Iraq by the end of 2001, of the Strategic Framework Agreement for a Relationship of Friendship and Cooperation between the United States of America and the Republic of Iraq and of six agreements with States that still have forces in Iraq for their withdrawal within a period of no later than the end of July 2009 and the restoration of its full sovereignty over all of its territory, and to welcome Security Council resolution 1859 (2008);

5. To commend the progress achieved in the political process in Iraq and the role of the Government in establishing the principle of democracy, which successfully culminated in the holding of provincial elections on 31 January 2009;

6. To follow up the outcomes of the initiative for the International Compact with Iraq, launched at the international conference hosted by the Arab Republic of Egypt at Sharm el-Sheikh on 3 May 2007; call on all concerned parties to fulfil their commitments as stipulated in the document of the International Compact with Iraq, follow up the outcomes of the Expanded Ministerial Conference of the Neighbouring Countries of Iraq, hosted by the Arab Republic of Egypt on 4 May 2007, and the outcomes of the meetings of the subsidiary working groups in the fields of fuel and energy; assist displaced persons and security cooperation and coordination; and affirm the importance of continuing these efforts to reinforce regional and international support to assist Iraq;

7. To welcome Security Council resolution 1770 (2007) on expanding the role of the United Nations in Iraq in providing support and assistance, cooperate positively

towards progress in political dialogue and national reconciliation, request a strengthening of its role in assisting Iraq and affirm the importance of maintaining cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States for the success of these efforts;

8. To commend the role of the Iraqi political, religious and tribal leaderships and their success in putting an end to sectarian deadlock and political infighting and implementing the principle of national reconciliation in order to help stabilize Iraq and ensure unity and respect for its sovereignty;

9. To commit to the implementation of resolution 375 of the 19th ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level (Riyadh, 29 March 2007) and resolution 415 of the 20th ordinary session Council of the League of Arab States at summit level (Damascus, 30 March 2008), respond promptly to Iraq's request for the reopening of Arab diplomatic missions in Iraq, commend the initiative of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the State of the United Arab Emirates, the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Syrian Arab Republic and the State of Kuwait to reopen their diplomatic missions in Baghdad, and encourage Arab political and popular initiatives that demonstrate the importance of strengthening Arab contacts with the Iraqi Government and people, with reference in that context to the to the Secretary-General's visit to Iraq from 16 to 19 March 2009, in order to strengthen continuity and Arab support for Iraq;

10. To condemn vigorously terrorist acts which target the people and institutions of Iraq, considering these as a threat to peace and security, as stated in Security Council resolution 1618 (2005); welcome the serious steps taken by the Iraqi Government to implement the security plan to impose the rule of law and the positive results achieved by the plan in reducing violence, establishing security, hunting down the sources of violence, terrorism and threats to the security of citizens, arresting the armed killers of terrorist organizations, remnants of the previous regime, death squads, sectarian militias and organized crime gangs; and support government measures to decommission illegal weapons, provide services, return émigrés to their regions and homes and implement a programme of national reconciliation;

11. To support the efforts of the Iraqi Government to rebuild its security institutions on national and professional bases to pave the way for the full handover of security throughout the country, in addition to its assumption of security in 11 governorates at the present time, and promote active Arab participation in those efforts by training the Iraqi army and police force and making an effective contribution to the upgrading of Iraqi staff in various fields;

12. To commend the cancellation of Iraq's debts by the State of the United Arab Emirates reaffirm resolution 415 of the 20th ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level (Damascus, 30 March 2008), affirm the need for Arab States to review Iraq's debts to them with a view to their cancellation or reduction, following the example of the brotherly initiative of the State of the United Arab Emirates, pursuant to paragraph 8 of resolution 375 of the 19th ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level (Riyadh 29 March 2007);

13. To undertake an effective role in helping Iraq to drive forward the economic development process, participate actively in the reconstruction and upgrading of the

various sectors, strengthen Arab investments in Iraq, and call on the organizations and institutions of joint Arab action to make a useful contribution to Iraq's reconstruction and development, in accordance with Iraqi needs and expertise and the resources available to these institutions;

14. To condemn once more the grave violations of human rights that occurred during the occupation of the State of Kuwait and the expunging of the facts relating to Kuwaiti and other prisoners and missing persons, some of whose remains have been found in mass graves; express deep condolences to the families of victims whose remains have been identified and concern at the ordeal of those whose whereabouts remain unknown; and commend the cooperation of the Iraqi Government and its efforts to discover the fate of all Kuwaiti and other missing persons and prisoners;

15. To request the Ministerial Committee on Iraq to pursue its efforts and strengthen contacts with the various regional and international parties to help Iraq overcome the present challenges;

16. While welcoming the withdrawal of Turkish forces from Iraqi territory and the end of Turkish military operations, to affirm its stance on the need for respect of Iraq's international borders, non-violation of national sovereignty, observance of international law, resort to diplomatic solutions through direct dialogue and commitment to joint action against all terrorist activities that undermine the security and stability of both countries, their common interests and the security of the region;

17. To affirm the importance of pursuing the efforts of the League of Arab States and its Mission in Iraq to support Iraq in a variety of areas, deploy an additional US$ 1 million of extrabudgetary resources to cover the expenditure of the Mission of the League of Arab States in Iraq, divided among member States in relation to their contribution to the League's budget, and call on States not yet having paid their share of the budget for the opening and ongoing operation of the Mission to do so promptly;

18. To request the Secretary-General to monitor the situation and submit a report thereon to the Council at its next ordinary session.

(Summit resolution 459, 21st ordinary session – 30 March 2009)

7. The Iranian occupation of the Arabian Gulf islands of Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, belonging to the United Arab Emirates

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General and the report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action,

Affirming previous resolutions in this regard, of which the most recent was resolution 418 of the 20th ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level (Damascus, 30 March 2008) on the occupation by the Islamic Republic of Iran of the Arabian Gulf islands of Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, belonging to the United Arab Emirates,

In the light of the proposal of Brother Leader Muammar al-Qadhafi, Guide of the First of September Great Revolution, concerning referral of the case to the International Court of Justice,

Resolves

1. To affirm unreservedly the full sovereignty of the State of the United Arab Emirates over its three islands of Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa and support all peaceful measures and means taken by the United Arab Emirates to regain sovereignty over its occupied islands;

2. To reject the continued occupation by the Iranian Government of the three islands and the violation of the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates, which disrupts security and stability in the region and threatens international peace and security;

3. To condemn the construction by the Iranian Government of housing facilities for the settlement of Iranians on the three occupied Arab islands;

4. To condemn Iranian military manoeuvres around the three occupied islands of the United Arab Emirates, Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, and in the territorial waters, airspace, continental shelf and exclusive economic zone of the three islands, which are an indivisible part of the United Arab Emirates, and to demand that Iran refrain from such violations and provocative actions, which are considered to be an interference in the internal affairs of an independent, sovereign State, do not help in building trust, threaten the region's security and stability and endanger the security and safety of regional and international shipping in the Arabian Gulf;

5. To condemn Iran for having opened two offices on the island of Abu Musa, which belongs to the United Arab Emirates, and call on it to remove these illegal facilities and respect the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over its territory;

6. To call once more on the Iranian Government to end its occupation of the three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates, refrain from the forcible imposition of a status quo, halt the construction of any facilities on the islands designed to alter their population and demographic composition, annul all measures and remove all facilities constructed unilaterally by Iran on the three Arab islands, since such measures and claims are null and void, have no legal effect, do not diminish the firm right of the United Arab Emirates to its three islands and are actions in violation of international law and the Geneva Convention of 1949, and demand that Iran follow peaceful means to resolve the dispute in accordance with the principles and rules of international law, including accepting referral of the case to the International Court of Justice;

7. To express the hope that the Islamic Republic of Iran will reconsider its refusal to find a peaceful solution to the issue of the three occupied islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates, either through serious and direct negotiations or through recourse to the International Court of Justice;

8. To demand that Iran translate its declared wish for improved relations, dialogue and removal of tension with the Arab States into practical and tangible measures, in word and deed, by responding genuinely to the serious and sincere calls from His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, from the States of the Cooperation Council of the Arab States of the Gulf and from Arab States, international blocs, friendly States and the Secretary-General of the United Nations to resolve the dispute over the three occupied islands by peaceful means, in accordance with custom and the instruments

and rules of international law, through serious and direct negotiations or by referral to the International Court of Justice, in order to develop trust and strengthen the security and stability of the Arabian Gulf region;

9. To request Brother Leader Muammar al-Qadhafi, Guide of the First of September Great Revolution, to use his good offices with the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Arab Emirates with a view to ensuring that referral of the case to the International Court of Justice is accepted;

10. To require that all Arab States, in their communications with Iran, undertake to raise the issue of its occupation of the three islands in order to underline the necessity of ending it on the grounds that the three islands are occupied Arab territories;

11. To notify the Secretary-General of the United Nations and President of the Security Council that the Security Council must remain seized of the issue until Iran ends its occupation of the three Arab islands and the United Arab Emirates recovers full sovereignty over them;

12. To request the Secretary-General to monitor the situation and submit a report to the Council at its next ordinary session.

(Summit resolution 460, 21st ordinary session – 30 March 2009)

8. Addressing the losses and measures resulting from the dispute over the Lockerbie issue

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General and the report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action,

Affirming its relevant resolutions, the most recent of which is Damascus summit resolution 419 (20th ordinary session, 30 March 2009),

Recalling the extensive losses suffered by the Great Jamahiriya as a result of the sanctions imposed on it,

Resolves

1. To affirm the legitimate right of the Great Jamahiriya to seek compensation for the material and human losses caused by the sanctions imposed upon it;

2. To affirm the demand for the release of the Libyan national, Abdelbaset al-Megrahi, considering his continued detention to be that of a hostage according to all international laws and established practice;

3. To demand that the British Government release all documents requested by the defence counsel for the Libyan national, Abdelbaset al-Megrahi, to the Scottish Criminal Cases Review Commission, the failure to do so being regarded as a miscarriage of justice and an obstacle to his acquittal;

4. To appeal to the British Government to release on humanitarian grounds the Libyan national, Abdelbaset al-Megrahi, in view of his gravely deteriorating health as a result of cancer, which, according to medical reports, is at an advanced stage, requiring him to be moved promptly to his family's side;

5. To request the Secretary-General to follow up implementation of this resolution and submit a report to the next ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level.

(Summit resolution 461, 21st ordinary session – 30 March 2009)

9. The Libyan-Italian Treaty of Friendship, Partnership and Cooperation

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the outcome of the contacts between the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the Italian Republic concerning the Treaty between the two parties,

Having heard the discussions conducted on this subject,

Resolves

1. To welcome the entry into effect of the Libyan-Italian Treaty of Friendship, Partnership and Cooperation by way of the exchange of the instruments of its ratification in the city of Sirte on 2 March 2009 between Brother Leader Muammar al-Qadhafi and the Prime Minister of Italy, Silvio Berlusconi;

2. To congratulate the Libyan people on the conclusion of this Treaty, which comprises an official and open acknowledgement of and an apology and compensation for the moral, human and material losses suffered by the Libyan people during the period of Italian colonization;

3. To regard this Treaty as a historical precedent that opens the way to justice for peoples who suffered the hardships of colonization and constitutes a positive development offering opportunities for strengthening cooperation and friendship between Arab States and the States of the European Union.

(Summit resolution 462, 21st ordinary session – 30 March 2009)

10. Rejection of the unilateral United States sanctions on the Syrian Arab Republic

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General and the report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action,

Expressing once again surprise and concern at the passing by the United States Congress of the so-called Syria Accountability Act and the executive order signed by the United States President on 11 May 2004 decreeing the unilateral imposition of sanctions outside the framework of international legitimacy,

Having taken cognizance of the statements, declarations and resolutions issued by various international governmental forums and non-governmental organizations expressing the international community's repudiation of any State setting its national legislation above international law with the aim of undermining the sovereignty and interests of other States and peoples,

Noting that the unilateral imposition of arbitrary laws conflicts with the provisions and approach of the World Trade Organization, which prohibit measures designed to obstruct the freedom of international trade and shipping,

Expressing surprise at the passing of this United States law against an Arab country fundamental to the stability and security of the region at a time when the United States is seeking cooperation with the Arab States to combat international terrorism and achieve the reforms necessary to create the broadest possible partnership between both sides,

In compliance with Riyadh summit resolution 378 (19th ordinary session, 29 March 2007) and Damascus summit resolution 420 (20th ordinary session, 30 March 2008),

Resolves

1. To reject the so-called Syria Accountability Act as a breach of the principles of international law, United Nations resolutions and the Charter of the League of Arab States and as giving primacy to the laws of the United States over international law;

2. To stand in full solidarity with the Syrian Arab Republic and appreciate its position calling for the primacy of the language of dialogue and diplomacy as a means of understanding between States and the resolution of disputes between them, and to call upon the United States Administration to enter in good faith into constructive dialogue with Syria in order to find the best ways of settling the issues hindering improved relations between the two countries;

3. To call on the United States to reconsider and abolish this Act, which is blatantly biased in favour of Israel, exacerbates the deteriorating situation and squanders the opportunities for the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, in addition to gravely undermining Arab interests;

4. To affirm that the abolition of this Act by the new United States Administration would be a positive initiative and a move towards a policy free of double standards;

5. To request the secretary-General to follow up implementation of this resolution and submit a report thereon to the Council at its next ordinary session.

(Summit resolution 463, 21st ordinary session – 30 March 2009)

11. Outcome of the embargo imposed on Syria and the Sudan by the United States of America with regard to the purchase or hire of aircraft and spare parts, and the threat to the safety and security of civil aviation

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General, the report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action, the recommendations of the Executive Bureau of the Council of Arab Ministers of Transport at its 36th session on 12 April 2006 and the resolutions of the Council of the League of Arab States at ministerial level, the most recent of which is resolution 7070 (131st ordinary session, 3 March 2009),

Resolves

1. To affirm the right of all Arab States to develop their air fleet in a liberal and competitive setting without the hindrance of conditions or a political embargo;

2. To reject the embargo imposed on Syria and the Sudan concerning the purchase or hire of aircraft and spare parts and to regard it as a violation of the principles of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the Charter of the League of Arab States and a violation human rights and international conventions on civil aviation;

3. To call on all Arab States to seek with all concerned States and all international and regional organizations concerned with civil aviation, in particular civil aviation safety, to have the embargo lifted from Syrian and Sudanese civil aviation and from Syrian and Sudanese civil aviation companies so that they are able to purchase and hire aircraft, spare parts and equipment in order to ensure civil aviation for all passengers of different nationalities who use Syrian and Sudanese aircraft and airports;

4. To request the Secretariat to follow up this matter and submit to the Council at its next session a report on the outcome of its contacts.

(Summit resolution 464, 21st ordinary session – 30 March 2009)

12. Solidarity with the Sudan

Rejection of the decision of Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court concerning President Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir of the Republic of the Sudan

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General, the report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action and the recommendations contained in the report of the Follow-up Committee for the Implementation of Resolutions and Commitments at ministerial level at its second meeting in Damascus, on 16 March 2009, in this regard, which called for the measures taken by the International Criminal Court to be declared invalid,

Having heard the presentation delivered by the head of the delegation of the Republic of the Sudan,

Affirming the resolution of the extraordinary session of Arab Ministers for Foreign Affairs of 4 March 2009 and the resolutions of previous Arab summits on support for peace, development and unity in the Sudan, most recently the resolution of the Damascus summit in March 2008,

Taking note of the communiqués and resolutions issued by various regional and international organizations calling for respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of the Sudan and support for the efforts to achieve peace among its people,

Cautioning that the decision of Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court will, under the cloak of international justice, undermine the principle of the sovereignty of States and damage the current peace process in the Sudan,

Noting that the decision of Pre-Trial Chamber I failed to take into account the efforts of the Government of the Sudan, under the leadership of President Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir, to extinguish the flames of the war having raged for half a century in the south of the Sudan, his efforts to establish the bases for a comprehensive peace agreement in the south and his endeavours to establish peace

in the Sudan in general and in Darfur in particular, just as it also disregarded Arab-African efforts to resolve the Darfur crisis,

Welcoming the important role undertaken by the State of Qatar for signature of the Agreement of Goodwill and Confidence-building, signed in the Qatari capital of Doha on 17 February 2009, and the efforts of the African Union-United Nations Joint Chief Mediator, and appreciating the efforts of Arab States and neighbouring States of the Sudan, in particular the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, to end the Darfur crisis,

Resolves

1. To maintain solidarity with and support for the Sudan in opposing the decision of Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court concerning President Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir, which is aimed at prejudicing his legitimately elected leadership and the unity, security, stability and sovereignty of the Sudan, and at adversely affecting the timely efforts to establish peace, in particular the Agreement of Goodwill and Confidence-building signed in the Qatari capital of Doha on 17 February 2009, and other peace agreements, and to call for support for the Sudanese dialogue in accordance with the Arab-African initiative and the endeavours of the State of Qatar in this regard;

2. To affirm that the referral by the Security Council of the situation in Darfur, which is an internal dispute, to the International Criminal Court, is inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

3. To step up visits by Arab leaders and officials to the Sudan as an expression of solidarity;

4. To consider the decision of Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court concerning President Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir as a serious precedent targeted at a State President who continues to perform the functions of his position and as a violation of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961 and of the principles of international customary law, and to reject that decision and all effects arising out of it;

5. To call for invalidation of the measures adopted by Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court, particularly since the Sudan is not a member of this Court, and to call on the Security Council to assume its responsibilities in establishing peace and stability in the Sudan;

6. To reject the attempts to politicize the principles of international justice and use them to undermine the sovereignty, unity and independence of States under the cloak of international criminal justice;

7. To call for an evaluation of the Arab position towards the International Criminal Court and request all Arab States to refrain from responding to measures by the International Criminal Court with regard to President Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir of the Republic of the Sudan;

8. To call on the Security Council and international and regional organizations to support the current efforts to establish peace in Darfur, urge the States which are permanent Members of the Security Council to achieve a united stand for the protection of peace and stability in the Sudan, and allow the opportunity for progress along the road to a political settlement of the Darfur crisis;

9. To devote the necessary attention to the achievement of peace between the Sudanese parties concerned with the Darfur crisis; support the timely efforts of the Government of National Unity to achieve a comprehensive peace in Darfur; caution that the decision of the International Criminal Court will have an adverse impact on these efforts and on other peace agreements in particular; express appreciation of the legal, legislative and judicial measures taken by the Sudan to deal with the Darfur crisis; and affirm the need to afford opportunity to the Sudanese judiciary, which is independent and desirous and capable of achieving full justice;

10. To call on the armed movements that have not signed the Abuja Peace Agreement to join the political process, respond to the Arab-African efforts to establish peace and assume their responsibilities in strengthening the opportunities for the achievement of peace and stability in the Sudan;

11. To commend the steadfastness of the Sudanese people and the tenacity of its internal front in opposing the decision of Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court;

12. To commend the ongoing efforts of the Secretary-General and his aides to establish peace in the Sudan, call on him to pursue the coordination of positions with the African Union, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Group of Non-Aligned Countries to counter any adverse consequences for the stability of the Sudan, and evaluate the report of the Council at its next session;

13. To keep the Council in permanent session for the purpose of monitoring developments in the situation.

(Summit resolution 465, 21st ordinary session – 30 March 2009)

Communiqué of the Doha summit concerning solidarity with the Republic of the Sudan in rejecting the decision of Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court concerning President Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir of the Republic of the Sudan

Doha, 3 Rabi` I A.H. 1430 (30 March A.D. 2009)

The Arab leaders expressed their support for and full solidarity with the Sudan in rejecting the decision of Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court with regard to President Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir of the Republic of the Sudan, which is aimed at damaging his legitimately elected leadership, and affirmed their categorical rejection of any dealings with this decision, which is liable to have an adverse impact on the unity, security, stability and independence of the Sudan and on the efforts to establish peace, in particular the efforts by the State of Qatar within the framework of the Arab-African Ministerial Committee and in coordination with the Joint United Nations-African Union Chief Mediator to promote the peace process in Darfur with a view to the establishment of a lasting and comprehensive peace.

The Arab leaders considered the decision of Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court with regard to President Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir of the Republic of the Sudan to be a dangerous precedent targeted at a head of State who continues to perform the functions of his position and a violation of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961 and of international customary law.

The Arab leaders called on the Security Council to assume its responsibilities concerning the establishment of peace in Sudan and support the efforts for progress towards a political settlement of the Darfur crisis.

The leaders affirmed full support for the achievement of peace between the Sudanese parties concerned with the Darfur crisis, as well as support for the efforts of the Sudanese Government of National Unity in that regard. They cautioned that the decision of the International Criminal Court would have a negative impact on those efforts and appealed to the armed movements not having signed the Abuja Agreement to join the political process and shoulder their responsibilities to strengthen the opportunities for the achievement of security and stability. The leaders also affirmed the importance of ongoing cooperation and coordination between the League of Arab States and the African Union for the establishment of peace in Darfur.

The leaders rejected attempts to undermine the sovereignty, unity, security and stability of States and the symbols of their national sovereignty, and to politicize the principles of international justice. They called for cessation of the measures taken by Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court, in that the Sudan is not a member of the Court and decided to assess the Arab position towards the Court and that Arab States would not respond to the measures by the Court with regard to President Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir of the Republic of the Sudan, and further decided to reject the decision and all effects arising out of it. They affirmed the need to allow the independent and qualified Sudanese judiciary the opportunity to fulfil its wish of achieving full justice in Darfur and commended the steps taken by the Sudanese Government concerning the measures to be implemented with regard to the package agreed in July 2008 between the League of Arab States and the Republic of the Sudan by way of a solution.

The leaders praised the steadfastness of the Sudanese people and the tenacity of its internal front in opposing the decision of the International Criminal Court.

The leaders confirmed their appreciation of the Arab and foreign States that had joined in providing humanitarian assistance for the victims in Darfur and urged Arab relief and civil-society organizations to increase their presence in Darfur and boost their humanitarian aid contributions. They pledged immediate assistance in the sum of US$ 8 million monthly for a period of one year as a contribution to easing the burdens of victims in Darfur and dealing with the results of the cessation of humanitarian aid activities in the Sudan by some international organizations.

They requested the Secretariat-General to convene a meeting of the Arab Red Crescent Societies and Arab humanitarian relief organizations, in consultation with the Sudanese Government and the United Nations, and to take urgent action to meet humanitarian needs in Darfur and ensure that the villages are re-equipped with the vital requisites in order to facilitate the voluntary return of displaced persons to their homes. The leaders decided that the Council would remain in permanent session in order to follow developments in the situation.

Support for peace, development and unity in the Republic of the Sudan

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General and the report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action,

Having heard the presentation delivered by the head of the delegation of the Republic of the Sudan on the efforts to promote peace and stability throughout the Sudan,

Affirming respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Sudan and support for the efforts aimed at achieving peace and national accord among the people of the Sudan; the Arab summit resolutions on support for peace, unity and development in the Sudan; the resolutions of the Council of the League at its extraordinary sessions, held on 19 July 2008 and 4 March 2009, on the subject of the memorandum of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court with regard to President Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir; and the resolutions of the 130th and 131st ordinary sessions on support for peace, development and unity in the Sudan,

Taking note of the statements and decisions issued by a number of international and regional organizations, in particular the African Union, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Group of Non-Aligned Countries, calling for the need to respect the sovereignty, territorial unity and independence of the Sudan and appealing to all States to affirm this commitment in practice and support the efforts to achieve peace among its people,

Resolves

1. To maintain solidarity with the Sudan in order to counter anything aimed at prejudicing its sovereignty, security, stability and territorial unity and all that threatens the current peace efforts;

2. To affirm full rejection of all attempts to politicize the principles of international justice and also reject any double standards in the application of international legal principles rooted in and derived from international law, as well as any attempts to undermine the sovereignty, unity, security and stability of the Sudan and the symbols of its national sovereignty;

3. To caution against the grave threats to the current peace process as a result of the decision of Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court with regard to President Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir and its adverse effects on the Agreement of Goodwill and Confidence-building, signed in the Qatari capital between the Sudanese Government and the Justice and Equality Movement on 17 February 2008, and on the Tripoli Charter between the opposition movements in Darfur, signed under Libyan-Qatari auspices on 15 March 2009 in Tripoli, for participation by one negotiating delegation and a united negotiating position in Doha;

4. To express appreciation for the legal, legislative and judicial measures taken by the Sudan to address the Darfur crisis, including amendment of the Armed Forces Act, for the current efforts concerning the ratification of a draft amendment to the Sudanese Penal Code, using as guidance the model Arab law on crimes within the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court, and for its call to pursue these measures to promote the package agreed in July 2008 between the League of Arab States and the Republic of the Sudan by way of a solution, and to affirm the need to allow the independent and qualified Sudanese judiciary the opportunity to fulfil its wish to achieve full justice;

5. To affirm the consistency of efforts to achieve peace and justice and the need to devote full attention to the achievement of peace between the Sudanese parties concerned with the Darfur crisis;

6. To welcome the signature of the Agreement of Goodwill and Confidence-building in the Qatari capital of Doha on 17 February 2009 between the Sudanese Government and the Justice and Equality Movement in the context of the Arab-African initiative to establish peace in Darfur as an important step in the efforts to establish comprehensive peace in Darfur; commend the major role played by the State of Qatar in the signature of this Agreement and the efforts of the Joint African Union-United Nations Chief Mediator for Darfur; and express appreciation for the timely efforts of the Arab States and the neighbouring States of the Sudan, in particular the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to end the crisis in Darfur;

7. To support the efforts of the Arab-African Ministerial Committee, chaired by the Prime Minister of the State of Qatar, the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, and to welcome the outcome of its most recent meeting, held in Doha on 14 January 2009, and its call to pursue its efforts to hold Darfur peace discussions, in cooperation with the African Union-United Nations Joint Chief Mediator for Darfur;

8. To call on the armed movements that have not signed the Abuja Peace Agreement to join the political process, respond to the Arab-African efforts to establish peace and assume their responsibilities in strengthening the opportunities for the achievement of civil peace in the Sudan and for opening the way to reconstruction efforts;

9. To seek to strengthen and coordinate regional and international efforts in order to encourage the armed movements to join the peace efforts, thereby preserving the interests of the nation and its stability and territorial integrity, and to expedite preparation of the right climate for dealing with the humanitarian crisis from which the people of Darfur are suffering;

10. To call on all States able to do so to support the military, technical and logistical capabilities of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and supply the aircraft needed to secure and facilitate the task of its deployment in Darfur, and to express appreciation for the contribution of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the Hybrid Operation;

11. To support the efforts of the contact group emanating from the Organization of the Islamic Conference concerned with implementing the Dakar Agreement to normalize Sudanese-Chadian relations;

12. To provide immediate financial support in the sum of US$ 8 million monthly for a period of one year through an account in support of the Sudan at the Secretariat-General in order to help in easing the burdens of victims in Darfur and deal with the results of the cessation of humanitarian aid activities in the Sudan by some international organizations, with such financial support being distributed among member States in proportion to their contribution to the budget of the Secretariat-General and the share of the contributions of the least well-off States* being divided among the remaining member States;

13. To extend gratitude to the Arab States that have paid their contributions to financing the forces of the African Union while performing their tasks in Darfur and

* The leaders agreed during closed session to the proposal of the President of the summit to exempt the following States: Republic of Djibouti, Republic of Somalia, Union of the Comoros, the Lebanese Republic and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

to call on the remaining Arab States to pay their contributions earmarked for supporting and addressing the humanitarian situation in Darfur;

14. To ensure that member States provide prompt humanitarian assistance to victims in Darfur and urge charities and Arab civil-society organizations to establish a direct presence in Darfur and strengthen their contributions in providing humanitarian assistance;

15. To call on the Secretariat-General to convene a meeting in Khartoum of Arab Red Crescent Societies and Arab humanitarian relief organizations, in consultation and coordination with the Sudanese Government, in order to ensure urgent action to meet humanitarian needs in Darfur and ensure provision of the requisites for village life in order to facilitate the voluntary return of displaced persons to their villages and original places of residence, in the light of the report prepared by the joint mechanism between the Government of the Sudan and the United Nations;

16. To call on the joint mechanism comprising the League of Arab States and the Sudanese Government of National Unity to follow up implementation of the pledges made at the Arab conference to support and address the humanitarian situation in Darfur, and to call on Arab donor States and organizations to fulfil the pledges that they announced during the conference;

17. To call on the Secretariat-General, in consultation and coordination with the Government of the Sudan, to take the necessary steps to rehabilitate the villages in the three states of Darfur in the context of implementing the resolution of the Damascus summit on converting the contributions from Arab States in support of African Union forces into support for the humanitarian situation in Darfur;

18. To call on the Secretary-General to pursue his efforts to establish a health centre in one of the states of Darfur to serve as a base for Arab mobile medical clinics in Darfur;

19. To call on the Secretariat-General, in cooperation with the Sudanese Government, to continue dispatching mobile medical clinics furnished with technical equipment and medicines to the areas affected by the crisis in Darfur;

20. To persist in supporting implementation of the comprehensive peace agreement and the current efforts for the holding of presidential and parliamentary elections in July 2009 and to welcome the wisdom shown by a peace partner in dealing with the Abyei issue by resorting to international arbitration;

21. To call on the Secretariat-General to pursue it efforts with the Government of National Unity to prepare for the Arab conference on investment and development in southern Sudan and war-affected areas in the second half of 2009;

22. To welcome the initiative of the Secretariat-General to carry out a training programme for staff from the Government of Southern Sudan in civilian administration and local government in January 2009 and dispatch mobile medical clinics to a number of states in southern Sudan, and to call on it to continue training and humanitarian support;

23. To commend the efforts of the League of Arab States, its Secretary-General, its action to establish peace in the Sudan and its call for the continuing coordination of positions with the African Union, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Group of Non-Aligned Countries in order to counter any adverse repercussions

on the stability of the Sudan, and to call on it to pursue those efforts and submit a report thereon to the Council at its next session.

(Summit resolution 466, 21st ordinary session – 30 March 2009)

13. Support for the Republic of Somalia

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General and the report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action,

Affirming its previous resolutions in this regard,

Resolves

1. To welcome the steps taken to implement the Djibouti Agreement for Somali Reconciliation, signed on 18 August 2008, most importantly the formation of a Somali Transitional Federal Government and a Somali transitional parliament and the election of Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed as President of the Somali Republic on 31 January 2009;

2. To welcome the approach of the President of the Somali Republic and the new Somali Government to implementing national reconciliation with all components of Somali society at home and abroad, on the basis of the Djibouti Agreement and other relevant agreements, and to urge all Somali parties of different persuasions to support these agreements and all national reconciliation programmes;

3. To provide immediate financial support in the sum of US$ 3 million monthly for a period of six months through an account in support of Somalia at the Secretariat-General in order to support the budget of the Somali Government, to be paid in parallel with the progress in the Somali reconciliation process, with such financial support to be divided among member States in proportion to their contributions to the budget of the Secretariat-General and the contributions of the least well-off States* to be divided among the remaining member States;

4. To extend gratitude to the Republic of Iraq for its donation of US$ 5 million in support of Somalia;

5. To call on member States to provide urgently and immediately all means of material and logistical support to the new Somali Government to enable it to set up and run effective State institutions and implement its security, stability and reconciliation programmes and provide public services for the Somali people;

6. To condemn all operations aimed at obstructing the course of comprehensive national reconciliation and to call on the parties which have not joined the reconciliation process to review their position and to relinquish violence in order to achieve national reconciliation and spread security and stability throughout Somalia, with the Secretariat-General continuing to provide financial and humanitarian support to the Somali reconciliation process;

7. To support the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the joint forces, to condemn any military operations aimed at harming African Union forces in Somalia, to call on African States to contribute troops in order to complete

* The leaders agreed during closed session to the proposal of the President of the summit to exempt the following States: Republic of Djibouti, Republic of Somalia, Union of the Comoros, the Lebanese Republic and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

deployment of the African forces, to request member States to continue providing financial and logistical support for that deployment and to urge States that have not paid their contribution to the Somalia Support Fund to take the initiative to do so;

8. To support the request of the African Union for the deployment of United Nations forces to replace African forces as soon as possible and to request the United Nations to take the necessary measures and steps to expedite the deployment of these forces;

9. To call on member States to promote the positive developments in Somalia and provide the various forms of support needed to enable the constitutional institutions emanating from the Djibouti Peace Agreement to build State institutions, achieve comprehensive security, stability and comprehensive national reconciliation, hold the democratic local, regional and national elections provided for in the Federal Constitution and provide support for establishment of the Somali forces provided for in the Djibouti Peace Agreements, comprising 10,000 men to maintain security and stability in the country in order to guarantee the survival of existing Somali institutions;

10. To adopt the communiqué issued on 4 November 2008 by the Arab Peace and Security Council on piracy and armed attack off the Somali coast, express appreciation for the various Arab initiatives undertaken by Arab States with Red Sea coastlines, in association with the League of Arab States, to consult on all of the political, economic, legal and security aspects of the phenomenon of piracy, reject any attempts to internationalize the Red Sea area and strengthen Arab cooperation to achieve security in the waters of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, bearing in mind that the security of Red Sea waters is the responsibility of Arab States with Red Sea coastlines;

11. To welcome the effective participation of the United Arab Emirates, the Republic of Djibouti, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Somali Transitional Federal Government, the Sultanate of Oman, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of Yemen and the Secretariat-General in the international contact groups involved in countering piracy and armed attacks off the Somali coast, and to request the Secretariat-General to strengthen the mechanism for consultation, cooperation and information exchange in this regard among Arab States and the specialized Arab technical agencies, in coordination with the International Maritime Organization, the African Union and the United Nations, in the light of international and regional agreements and the rules governing anti-piracy activities;

12. To call on member States, Arab organizations and funds, the competent ministerial councils and Arab non-governmental organizations to provide humanitarian support to the Somali people and help to alleviate their suffering;

13. To request the Secretariat-General to pursue its efforts with the new Somali Government and the World Health Organization to renovate seven hospitals in various parts of Somalia and dispatch mobile medical clinics to all areas of Somalia to support the health sector and supply hospitals with the necessary medicines;

14. To welcome the efforts of the Secretariat-General, in coordination with the Somali Government and the United Nations Development Programme, to implement a programme for disarming the militias and a project for development of the Somali livestock sector, and to call on Arab States to adopt the measures needed to lift the ban on Somalia's livestock exports;

15. To request member States to contribute to the costs of Somali diplomatic and consular missions accredited to them and urge councils of Arab ambassadors to help in shouldering the costs of Somali diplomatic missions and missions accredited to international and regional organizations overseas;

16. To request the ministerial committee on Somalia to convene an urgent meeting to consider the developments in the situation in Somalia and continue its efforts to promote the achievement of comprehensive national reconciliation, as well as the efforts for the reconstruction of Somalia;

17. To task the Secretariat-General with making thorough preparations for the convening of a conference in 2009 for the reconstruction of Somalia, in coordination with the African Union, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the United Nations, at which the Somali Government is to present its development plan and the necessary feasibility projects, with member States and Arab financing and investment funds as participants;

18. To extend gratitude to the Secretary-General for his efforts to achieve Somali national reconciliation and for the efforts of the Secretariat-General in that context, to welcome the opening of an office of the League of Arab States in the Somali capital and to request the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to follow up the implementation of this resolution and submit a report thereon to the Council at its next session.

(Summit resolution 467, 21st ordinary session – 30 March 2009)

14. Support for the Union of the Comoros

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General and the report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action,

Affirming its previous resolutions in this regard,

Resolves

1. To affirm its consummate wish for the national unity, territorial integrity and regional sovereignty of the Union of the Comoros;

2. To express its satisfaction at the ending of the crisis in the island of Anjouan and the success of the presidential elections held in the island of Anjouan in the Union of the Comoros on 15 and 29 June 2008, which were characterized by transparency and supervised and monitored by the League of Arab States and the African Union, in conjunction with the international community;

3. To support the positive developments in the Comoros, particularly with regard to continuation of the efforts for national reconciliation and the launching of Comorian dialogue on strengthening national unity and building Comorian State institutions;

4. To provide immediate financial support in the sum of US$ 2 million monthly for a period of one year to the Government of the Comoros through the fund in support of the Union of the Comoros, such financial support being divided among member States in proportion to their contributions to the budget of the Secretariat-

General and the contributions of the least well-off States* to be divided among the remaining member States;

5. To affirm the identity of the Comorian island of Mayotte, reject the French occupation of it and call on France to pursue dialogue with the Comoros Government to arrive at a solution guaranteeing the return of the island of Mayotte to Comorian sovereignty;

6. To affirm our non-recognition of the results of the referendum held by France on 29 March 2009 on incorporating the Comoros island of Mayotte and turning it into a French overseas territory and to consider the measures taken by France pursuant to the results of this referendum to be unlawful and invalid, giving rise to no rights and establishing no obligations;

7. To express appreciation for the joint efforts of the League of Arab States, the African Union, the United Nations and the Group of Non-Aligned Countries in connection with the continuing implementation of the national reconciliation agreement and to call on the Secretariat-General, international and regional organizations and States concerned with the situation in the Union of the Comoros to pursue their efforts in this regard;

8. To welcome the steps taken by the Union of the Comoros and the Secretariat-General to convene an Arab conference for investment and development in the Comoros islands during 2009, at which the Comoros Government is to present its development plan and the necessary feasibility studies and which is to be attended by member States and Arab financing and investment funds, with thorough preparations to be made for the convening of this conference in Doha, capital of the State of Qatar, during 2009;

9. To call on member States that have not paid their financial contributions to the fund in support of the Union of the Comoros in accordance with the Beirut summit resolution of 2002 to do so;

10. To call on member States and Arab financial institutions to contribution to providing US$ 10.7 million to help the Union of the Comoros to benefit from the programme in the wake of the political and constitutional crisis that is currently being negotiated by the Comoros Government and the International Monetary Fund;

11. To extend gratitude to the member States that have provided additional financial and development support, call on the remaining States to increase their financial support for the Union of the Comoros and appeal to Arab financial and investment funds, in particular the Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development, to provide development support for the Union of the Comoros in various fields, in particular for Walida National University;

12. To call on member States and Arab financial institutions and parties to address the debts accruing to the Union of the Comoros, as a contribution to peace and development in the country;

13. To request the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization to provide all possible assistance to promote Arabic language education in the Union of the Comoros;

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* The leaders agreed during closed session to the proposal of the President of the summit to exempt the following States: Republic of Djibouti, Republic of Somalia, Union of the Comoros, the Lebanese Republic and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

14. To extend gratitude to the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for its initiative in opening an embassy in Moroni, the capital of the Union of the Comoros, and call on member States to open diplomatic missions in the country;

15. To extend gratitude to the Secretariat-General for opening an office of the League of Arab States in the Union of the Comoros and to call on the Comorian Government and member States to provide support to enable it to carry out the duties with which it is charged;

16. To appeal to member States to contribute to the costs of Comorian diplomatic missions and to urge councils of Arab ambassadors to contribute to the cost of Comorian diplomatic missions and missions accredited to international and regional organizations overseas;

17. To express appreciation for the efforts of the Secretary-General in implementing development projects in the Union of the Comoros and cooperating with regional and international organizations to achieve Comorian reconciliation, and to request the Secretary-General to continue providing development aid to the Union of the Comoros in the light of the sums received by the aid fund of the League of Arab States for the Union of the Comoros and to submit a report thereon to the next ordinary session of the Council at summit level.

(Summit resolution 468, 21st ordinary session – 30 March 2009)

15. The tense situation on the Djibouti-Eritrean borders in the Ras Doumeira region of Djibouti

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General and the report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action,

Resolves

1. To reaffirm the need to respect the sovereignty and the territorial unity and integrity of the Republic of Djibouti and reject the aggression against Djibouti territories;

2. To call once again for respect for the principles of good-neighbourliness and non-violation of the borders existing between the two countries on the eve of independence;

3. To welcome Security Council resolution 1862 of 1 January 2009, which demands that Eritrea withdraw its forces immediately and, in any event, no later than five weeks after the adoption of the resolution;

4. To demand that Eritrea implement all clauses of resolution 1862 (2009) in order to end by peaceful means the state of tension resulting from the border dispute between Djibouti and Eritrea and restore the status quo to that which existed prior to 4 February 2008;

5. To call on Eritrea to hand over prisoners and missing persons to the International Committee of the Red Cross, as Djibouti has done, in order to show goodwill;

6. To welcome the decision of the Republic of Djibouti to withdraw its forces to their previous positions in response to the Security Council resolution;

7. To request the Secretary-General and the Arab Council for Peace and Security to continue their efforts to deal with the issue so as to preserve the rights of Djibouti, and to submit a report on these efforts to the Council of the League of Arab States when it next convenes;

8. To task the Secretariat-General with making the necessary contacts with the Eritrean Government and the African Union in order to address the situation, end the tension and stop the confrontation on the Djibouti-Eritrean borders;

9. To extend gratitude to the Secretary-General for his efforts to follow up this matter and send an early fact-finding mission to the area of Ras Doumeira from 9 to 11 May 2008.

(Summit resolution 469, 21st ordinary session – 30 March 2009)

16. Formulation of a united Arab position on practical measures to be taken to make the Middle East a nuclear-weapons-free zone

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action, the report and recommendations of the meeting of the expert working group of Government strategists, within the framework of the League of Arab States, concerned with elaborating appropriate concepts and mechanisms in the event that Israel moves towards a break with the policy of nuclear ambiguity that it has followed in recent years, held on 11 and 12 February 2008 at the headquarters of the Secretariat-General, and the report and recommendations of the twenty-fifth meeting of the committee for the follow-up of Israeli nuclear activity in contravention of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held from 25 to 27 January 2009 at the headquarters of the League of Arab States,

Resolves

1. To express concern that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons has not thus far achieved the aims intended at the time of accession thereto, particularly with regard to the requirements for Middle East regional security in the light of the failure to achieve universality of the Treaty and Israel's continuing refusal to accede thereto;

2. To agree to hold an Arab conference at the level of senior officials in the ministries of foreign affairs to discuss the various issues to be tabled at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to determine joint Arab positions and policies on all such issues, particularly relating to the Middle East, and to make specific recommendations in that regard to the Council of the League at summit level in the session of March 2010 in order to adopt suitable approaches;

3. To affirm resolution 6810 of the Council of the League at ministerial level, take note of the recommendations of the expert group of strategists, request the Council of the League at ministerial level to look into these recommendations in the light of the outcome of the 2010 Review Conference, make appropriate recommendations to the following summit and affirm that the Arab States will

consider these approaches in the light of the extent to which the 2010 Review Conference and the international community respond to the Arab call to turn the Middle East into a nuclear-weapons-free zone;

4. To affirm the importance of continuing to present the Arab draft resolution on Israeli nuclear capabilities to the ordinary sessions of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and make every effort to ensure the success of this resolution with the aim of highlighting the risks of the presence of nuclear capabilities in the region that are not subject to the IAEA comprehensive safeguards system and the threat thus represented to security and peace in the Middle East region;

5. To call for cessation of the technical cooperation projects between IAEA and Israel until Israel accedes to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as a non-nuclear State and its nuclear facilities are subject to the IAEA comprehensive safeguards system;

6. To affirm that the success of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons requires implementation of the Middle East resolution adopted at the 1995 Treaty Review and Extension Conference, a resolution that was adopted as part of a deal allowing infinite extension of the Treaty, and to affirm the need to agree on specific practical steps for the establishment of a nuclear-weapons-free zone in the Middle East, for Israel's accession to the Treaty and for its nuclear facilities to be subject to the IAEA comprehensive safeguards system.

(Summit resolution 470, 21st ordinary session – 30 March 2009)

17. Development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the member States of the League of Arab States

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General, the report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action, resolution 7027 (3 March 2009) of the 131st ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at ministerial level and the Arab strategy for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy to 2020,

Recalling the appeal by Arab leaders at the 18th ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level (Khartoum, 29 March 2006) on the development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the Arab States,

Affirming resolution 383 (Riyadh, 29 March 2007) of the 19th ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level and resolution 425 (Damascus, 30 March 2008) of the 20th ordinary session entitled "Development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the member States of the League of Arab States",

Reaffirming that the peaceful uses of nuclear energy is a fundamental right of States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to which all member States of the League of Arab States have acceded, and affirming their right to the international support necessary to develop peaceful uses of nuclear energy, especially from the International Atomic Energy Agency,

Resolves

1. To request the Arab States to follow up implementation of resolution 383 (Riyadh, 29 March 2007) of the 19th ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level, taking into account the diverse needs of the various Arab States, and inform the Secretariat-General of progress achieved in the matter;

2. To welcome the announcement by Arab States of the elaboration of national programmes for the use of peaceful nuclear technologies in all areas serving sustainable development;

3. To request the Arab Atomic Energy Agency (AAEA) to provide technical assistance to Arab States with regard to developing the infrastructure for programmes for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, establishing monitoring agencies, elaborating legal and legislative frameworks, planning energy, training human resources and coordinating among Arab States for the exchange of information in this regard;

4. To welcome the accession of the Kingdom of Bahrain to AAEA membership and urge States that have not yet joined AAEA to do so owing to the importance of its forthcoming work in implementing joint Arab action in this field;

5. To request the Secretary-General to follow up this matter and submit a report thereon to the next session of the League of the Council at summit level.

(Summit resolution 471, 21st ordinary session – 30 March 2009)

18. Formulation of a common Arab programme for the peaceful use of nuclear energy

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General, the report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action, resolution 7027 (29 March 2007) of the 131st ordinary session of the Council of the League at ministerial level and the Arab strategy for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy to 2020,

Affirming resolution 384 (Riyadh, 29 March 2009) of the 19th ordinary session of the Council of the League and resolution 426 (Damascus, 30 March 2008) of the Council of the League at summit level entitled "Formulation of a common Arab programme for the peaceful use of nuclear energy",

Affirming the importance of joint Arab cooperation in peaceful uses of nuclear energy,

Resolves

1. To adopt the Arab strategy for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy to 2020 and call on the competent authorities in the Arab States and on the Arab Atomic Energy Agency (AAEA) to develop detailed plans and programmes for its implementation;

2. To request the Economic and Social Council to consider the adoption of a supplementary budget for AAEA in order to implement these plans;

3. To request the Secretariat-General to continue efforts, in association with AAEA, to strengthen joint Arab cooperation in connection with developing the

peaceful uses of nuclear energy, in accordance with Damascus summit resolution 426 and the previous obligations of Arab summits;

4. To request AAEA to propose regional projects in the fields of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy among Arab States participating in or supplementing economic needs and resources;

5. To request the Secretary-General to follow up this subject and submit a report thereon to the next session of the Council of the League at summit level.

(Summit resolution 472, 21st ordinary session – 30 March 2009)

19. Request by the United Arab Emirates to host the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) in the city of Abu Dhabi

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied note verbale No. J.`A/2/21-A-449 of the United Arab Emirates, the memorandum of the Secretariat-General and the recommendations of the Arab Group at the United Nations,

Affirming resolution 7028 (29 March 2009) of the 131st ordinary session of the Council of the League at ministerial level and the decision of the joint meeting of foreign ministers from the Arab States and the States of South America,

Resolves

1. To promote the request of the State of the United Arab Emirates to host the headquarters of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and continue offering the required Arab support during the Second Conference of the IRENA Signatory States, to be held in the Arab Republic of Egypt in June 2009, at which voting on the hosting of the headquarters will take place;

2. To request member States and the Secretariat-General to continue promoting this request in all international and regional forums;

3. To call on member States to join IRENA promptly.

(Summit resolution 473, 21st ordinary session – 30 March 2009)

20. Arab relations with international and regional blocs

Afro-Arab cooperation

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General and the report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action,

Affirming its previous resolutions in this regard,

Pursuant to the resolutions of Arab summits, in particular resolution 428 (Damascus, 30 March 2008),

Resolves

I. Progress of Afro-Arab cooperation

1. To affirm the importance of continuing the efforts to remove obstacles to the galvanization and development of Afro-Arab cooperation, to organize meetings of its agencies in the light of resolutions of the Council of the League and to request the Secretary-General to follow up contacts in this regard to arrive at a stage of real and beneficial joint cooperation on the basis of interlinked political, economic, commercial and cultural interests, which will lay the foundations for the consolidation of Afro-Arab relations and avert risks;

2. To continue the efforts between the Secretariat-General of the League of Arab States and the African Union Commission to convene the second Afro-Arab summit at the earliest opportunity and to welcome the resolution of the African Union summit in Addis Ababa in February 2009 calling for the continuation of consultations by the Secretary-General of the League and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on the venue for the summit;

3. To welcome the selection of Brother Leader Muammar al-Qadhafi, Commander of the Libyan Revolution, as Chairperson of the African Union and express the hope that, with his initiatives and his efforts, he will contribute to the promotion of solidarity and cooperation among Arab and African States;

4. To welcome once more the offer of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to host the thirteenth session of the Standing Commission for Afro-Arab Cooperation and request the General Secretariat and the African Union Commission to coordinate with the host State to set a date for the holding of the session;

5. To agree to the conclusions drawn by the first meeting of the Facilitation Committee of the Afro-Arab Development Forum for Development and welcome the hosting by Iraq of the Forum's first session during the final quarter of 2010 under the banner of "Towards an Afro-Arab strategy";

6. To adopt the report of the working group, composed of the African Union Commission and the Secretariat-General of the League of Arab States, on transforming the Afro-Arab Cultural Institute into the Afro-Arab Institute for Culture and Strategic Studies;

7. To call for the active economic and commercial participation of States in the 7th Afro-Arab Trade Fair, to be hosted by the Republic of Djibouti in 2009;

8. To welcome the action plan for agricultural development and food security adopted by the high-level meeting of Arab and African experts, held in Riyadh in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in November 2008, and the matters agreed concerning the organization of a joint meeting of Arab and African ministers of agriculture in 2009;

9. To urge the private sector to invest in African States, particularly in the field of agriculture, and similarly urge African States to remove the obstacles preventing that achievement;

10. To extend gratitude to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for his generous support of the World Food Programme to the tune of US$ 500,000,000 to assist developing countries, particularly in Africa, in countering the increase in fuel and food prices;

11. To express appreciation for the role of the Arab Republic of Egypt in providing technical aid through the Egyptian Fund for Technical Cooperation, in addition to humanitarian aid for African States;

12. To express appreciation for the position of the African Union in support of the Arab stance vis-à-vis the Palestinian question and in support of the Arab Peace Initiative, as represented by the special resolution on the Palestinian question periodically adopted by the African Union summit;

13. To expedite the establishment of committees of Arab and African ambassadors in the capitals and cities in which missions of both the African Union and the League of Arab States are located, beginning with the formation of such committees in Addis Ababa, Brussels, Cairo, Geneva, New York and Washington, with the aim of strengthening cooperation and unifying positions vis-à-vis regional and international issues of joint concern;

14. To extend gratitude to the Secretariat-General for continuing its efforts to establish cooperative relations between the agencies and departments of the League of Arab States and their counterparts in the African Union, particularly between the Arab Peace and Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council and the African Parliament and the Arab Parliament, strengthening economic and commercial contacts between the two organizations and in the field of human rights, and affirming the need to overcome obstacles in the way of Afro-Arab cooperation;

15. To request the Secretariat-General to expedite the opening of the Mission of the League of Arab States in Pretoria, South Africa, so as to support and strengthen the mechanisms for Afro-Arab cooperation;

16. To coordinate Arab positions with the African Union on issues of joint concern in order to strengthen Afro-Arab cooperation.

II. The Arab Fund for Technical Assistance to African Countries

To affirm the importance of the role of the Arab Fund for Technical Assistance to African Countries in providing technical aid to African States and to take the necessary action to support it with the aim of increasing and developing its activities so as to further strengthen Afro-Arab relations.

(Summit resolution 474, 21st ordinary session – 30 March 2009)

Arab-European cooperation

Arab-European dialogue

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General and the report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action,

Resolves

1. To take note of the Ministerial Round Table: Europe and the Arab World, held in Austria from 17 to 19 December 2008 and jointly chaired by the League of Arab States and the Government of Austria, in which the States of the European Union took part, and to affirm the wish of the Arab side to strengthen joint Arab-European dialogue and preserve the special character of the new pattern of dialogue between the League of Arab States and the European Union;

2. To renew support for the request of the Arab Republic of Egypt to host the second Arab-European ministerial meeting for dialogue between the League of Arab States and the European Union in 2009 and to affirm the importance of continuing the efforts to make thorough preparation for that meeting by holding a preparatory meeting of senior representatives of the Arab troika, the European troika, Malta and the European Commission, with the participation of Egypt as the host State of the ministerial meeting;

3. To affirm the importance of continued efforts by the Secretariat-General with the European Presidency, the European Commission and the Republic of Malta to implement the purposes and substance of the Malta ministerial statement on the subject of strengthening joint cooperation in accordance with the priorities of the two sides;

4. To ensure continuation of the efforts of the Secretariat-General to develop relations with the Russian Federation;

5. To request the Secretariat-General to pursue its efforts and contacts with a view to strengthening relations with the States of the Caucasus and Central Asia and the States having recently joined the European Union, as well as with European organizations, in particular the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

(Summit resolution 475, 21st ordinary session – 30 March 2009)*

The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General and the report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action,

Resolves

1. To commend the efforts of the Arab Coordinator for the Barcelona Process, the Arab Republic of Egypt, and the efforts of the Secretariat-General in the context of the coordinating meetings at ministerial level and the Arab coordination mechanism at the level of the committee of senior officials, held in Cairo, Brussels and Marseilles, to prepare for the tenth Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the States of the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean, held in Marseilles on 3 and 4 November 2008;

2. To welcome the Marseilles ministerial statement, which affirmed the importance of the Arab Peace Initiative among the terms of reference for resolving the Arab-Israeli dispute; to affirm categorically the participation of the League of Arab States and its specialized institutions; and to work with the Arab Coordinator within all of the mechanisms of the new Euro-Mediterranean track, in all of its meetings and at all levels;

3. To support the candidate of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Kingdom's ambassador to Brussels, for the post of head of the Secretariat of the Union for the

* The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya entered a reservation to this resolution on the basis of its position that relations of this type, in that they divide Arabs and do not serve their interests, must be collective relations between the Arab States members of the League of Arab States and the European States members of the European Union.

Mediterranean, which is to be established in the Spanish city of Barcelona, and to commend the position of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan concerning postponement of the ministerial meeting on water affairs, scheduled to take place on 29 October 2008, in solidarity with the League of Arab States, the requirement being that it must participate in all meetings.

(Summit resolution 476, 21st ordinary session – 30 March 2009)

Upgrading of relations between the European Union and Israel

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General and the report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action,

Resolves

1. To regard the decision of the European Ministerial Council to strengthen its relations with Israel, despite its continuing blockade of Palestinian territories and its brutal incursion into Gaza, as constituting a flagrant violation of the policy of neighbourliness and of human rights;

2. To call on the European Union to review its decision to strengthen relations with Israel, which will affect the development of European-Arab relations;

3. To establish an Arab ministerial delegation from the Arab troika at summit level, with the Arab Republic of Egypt (the Arab Coordinator) and the Secretariat-General, to visit the European Union to discuss the danger posed by this decision to Arab-European relations;

4. To establish a delegation of Arab parliamentarians (the Arab Parliamentary Union and the Arab Transitional Parliament) to visit the headquarters of the European Parliament to discuss this subject with the European Parliament.

(Summit resolution 477, 21st ordinary session – 30 March 2009)

Arab-Asian cooperation

Strengthening of cooperation with Central Asia

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General and the report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action,

Resolves

1. To ensure that the Secretariat-General continues its efforts in the context of implementing the memoranda of understanding signed between the League of Arab States and the Islamic States of Central Asia, in view of the increasing importance of these States on the international stage;

2. To reaffirm the call for Arab States that have no diplomatic missions in this important region of the Arab and Islamic worlds to take the initiative to open embassies therein;

3. To affirm the need to strengthen the level of economic cooperation with the States of Central Asia, which have begun to attract the attention of major countries owing to the huge discoveries of energy in those States, and to increase opportunities for investment in them;

4. To affirm the importance of accelerated efforts by the Secretariat-General with the Islamic States of Central Asia for the establishment of an Arab economic forum with the States of Central Asia;

5. To charge the Secretariat-General with continuing to follow up the subject and with providing a review of new developments to the forthcoming sessions of the Council.

(Summit resolution 478, 21st ordinary session – 30 March 2009)

Arab cooperation with the People's Republic of China

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General, the report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action and resolutions 6956 (8 September 2009) of the 130th ordinary session of the Council of the League at ministerial level and 7036 (3 March 2009) of the 131st ordinary session on Arab relations with the People's Republic of China,

Affirming its previous resolutions in this regard, of which the most recent was resolution 430 (Damascus, 30 March 2009) of the 20th ordinary session of the League at summit level,

Resolves

1. To affirm its previous resolutions in this regard, to express the desire of member States to strengthen their relations with the People's Republic of China in various areas in order to serve mutual interests and to reaffirm the support of the Arab States for the principle of one China;

2. To welcome the final statement of the second Conference of Sino-Arab Friendship Associations, hosted by the Syrian Arab Republic from 27 to 30 October 2008, and the proposal of the Sino-Libyan Friendship Association to host the third Conference in the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in 2010;

3. To welcome the holding of a symposium on Sino-Arab cooperation in the field of higher education and scientific research in the framework of the Sino-Arab Cooperation Forum and the proposal for it to be hosted in the Republic of the Sudan during the second week of November 2009, and to charge the Secretariat-General with following up coordination with concerned Arab and Chinese parties in preparation for this symposium;

4. To call on the Secretariat-General to continue its efforts, in coordination with the concerned Arab and Chinese authorities, to prepare and organize the activities set forth in the Forum's executive programme for 2008-2010, including the holding of the third symposium for dialogue between the Arab and Chinese civilizations in the Republic of Tunisia on 11 and 12 May 2009, the third Conference of Arab and Chinese Businessmen and the first investment symposium on 21 and 22 April 2009, the sixth meeting of senior Arab and Chinese officials in Beijing, to be held on 23

and 24 June 2009, and the first Conference of Arab and Chinese Twinned Towns and Local Governments, to be held on 2 August 2009, and to affirm the importance of effective Arab participation in these activities;

5. To affirm active Arab participation in the Shanghai World Expo 2010 and to charge the Secretariat-General with continuing the preparations for the Expo and the symposiums to be held on its sidelines, including the preparation of a study of the estimated cost of the Expo and symposiums, which is to be included in the budget of the Secretariat-General for 2010, in accordance with the procedures in effect.

(Summit resolution 479, 21st ordinary session - 30 March 2009)

The Arab-Turkish Cooperation Forum

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General, the report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action,

Resolves

1. To welcome the outcome of the first ministerial meeting held in the framework of the Arab-Turkish Cooperation Forum in Istanbul on 11 October 2008, attended by the foreign ministers of the Arab troika, the summit presidency and the Secretary-General of the League, together with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey, and to commend the purposes and substance of the statement issued by the ministerial conference;

2. To request the Secretariat-General to pursue its efforts for implementation of the substance of the Istanbul ministerial statement and prepare thoroughly for the next ministerial conference, to be held in early May 2009, and to affirm the importance of an expression by Arab States of their wish to host the next ministerial conference, as well as meetings of the mechanisms for implementation of the strategy and plan of action;

3. To affirm the importance of ongoing cooperation with Turkey in all fields and at all bilateral and joint levels;

4. To affirm the need for the prompt establishment of a mission of the League in Ankara, pursuant to the resolution adopted by the Council of League at ministerial level at its 131st ordinary session on 3 March 2009, the Istanbul ministerial statement and the mission headquarters agreement signed between the Secretariat-General and Turkey;

5. To ensure continuation of the efforts by the Economic and Social Council to galvanize Arab-Turkish relations in accordance with the Istanbul ministerial statement, in addition to the contribution of relevant Arab specialized organizations in the activities of this Forum as part of the plan of action to be given shape by the working group, the establishment of which was recommended by the Istanbul ministerial statement;

6. To agree to Iraq joining the members of the Arab quartet within the mechanisms of the Arab-Turkish Cooperation Forum;

7. To agree to organize a workshop on matters relating to regional security, to be held in the final quarter of 2009, at the level of senior officers and experts;

8. To charge the Secretariat-General with submitting a report in this regard to the Council at its next session.

(Summit resolution 480, 21st ordinary session - 30 March 2009)

Arab cooperation with the Americas

Arab cooperation with the States of South America

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General, the report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action, the declaration issued by the summit of Arab and South American countries (the Brasilia Declaration), resolution 431 (Damascus, 29 March 2008) of the 20th ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level, resolution 6961 (8 September 2008) of the 130th ordinary session of the Council of the League at ministerial level and resolution 7039 (3 March 2009) of the 131st ordinary session of the Council of the League at ministerial level,

Resolves

1. To welcome the convening of the second summit of Arab and South American countries on 31 March 2009 in Doha, capital of the State of Doha, which constitutes a new stage for the development of cooperation and consultation between Arab States and States of South America in all political, economic, social and cultural spheres, and to affirm the importance of the participation of both parties in all activities to be carried out;

2. To request the Secretariat-General to prepare a report on the successes in this field and submit it to the Council of the League at ministerial level at its next ordinary session.

(Summit resolution 481, 21st ordinary session – 30 March 2009)

21. Support for the candidacy of Mr. Farouk Hosny, Minister of Culture of the Arab Republic of Egypt, for the post of Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General, the report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action, the request submitted by the Arab Republic of Egypt for endorsement and support of the candidacy of Mr. Farouk Hosny, Minister of Culture, for the post of Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), resolution 7040 (3 March 2009) of the Council of the League of Arab States at ministerial level and the decision of the ministers for foreign affairs of Arab States at their consultative meeting in New York on 24 September 2008 concerning support for the nomination of Mr. Farouk Hosny, Minister of Culture of the Arab Republic of Egypt, as a candidate for the post of Director-General of UNESCO,

Aware that the Arab States have not yet held this important international post, despite their major contributions to the culture of human civilizations and the role of

Arab States in driving dialogue among civilizations and promoting interaction among cultures,

Commending the efforts of the Arab Group at UNESCO to rally international support for the Arab candidate.

Resolves

1. To support the candidacy of Mr. Farouk Hosny, Minister of Culture of the Arab Republic of Egypt, for the post of Director-General of UNESCO;

2. To consider Mr. Farouk Hosny as the official and only candidate of the Arab States;

3. To affirm the importance of seeking the winning election of an Arab candidate to take up this high-ranking international post;

4. To express appreciation to African Union leaders for the resolution adopted at their summit held in Addis Ababa from 1 to 3 February 2009 in support of Mr. Farouk Hosny as an African candidate for the post of Director-General of UNESCO, and to all Arab States that supported his nomination;

5. To charge the Arab Group at UNESCO and ambassadors of Arab States who are accredited to member States of UNESCO's Executive Board and other States to step up their contacts in order to rally the widest international support for the Arab candidate for the post of Director-General of UNESCO.

(Summit resolution 482, 21st ordinary session – 30 March 2009)

Economic and social issues

22. Initiative of His Highness Shaikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait, concerning provision of the financial resources needed to support and fund small- and medium-size projects in the Arab world

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General, the report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action, the memorandum of the State of Kuwait, the draft memorandum of understanding proposed by the State of Kuwait concerning the initiative of His Highness Shaikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait, with regard to provision of the financial resources needed to fund and support private-sector projects in Arab States, which he announced in his speech at the opening session of the Arab Economic, Development and Social Summit, held in the State of Kuwait on 19 and 20 January 2009, and the report and resolutions of the Preparatory Economic and Social Council of the summit (21st ordinary session, 27 March 2009),

Welcoming the announcements made by the Republic of Djibouti and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania concerning their contributions of support and funding for the initiative,

In the light of discussions,

Resolves

1. To express appreciation for the development initiative of His Highness Shaikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait, which aims to provide the financial resources needed to fund and support small- and medium-size private-sector projects with a capital of US$ 2 billion, managed by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, through a mechanism and controls and standards established by the States contributing to this initiative, so as to guarantee the sustainability of their operations and achieve their desired objectives;

2. To request the member States to offer their contribution of support and funding for this initiative;

3. To extend gratitude to the State of Kuwait for its contribution of US$ 500 million to the capital for launching this development initiative;

4. To request the Secretary-General to follow up the subject and inform member States of developments.

(Summit resolution 483, 21st ordinary session – 30 March 2009)

23. Liberalization of air transport among Arab States and the opening of airspace

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General, the report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action, the memorandum of the United Arab Emirates, the memorandum of the Arab Civil Aviation Authority, the memorandum of the Arab Air Transport Union and the report and resolutions of the Preparatory Economic and Social Council of the summit (21st ordinary session, 27 March 2009),

Recalling summit resolutions 235 of the 14th ordinary summit (28 March 2002), 309 of the 17th ordinary summit (23 March 2005) and 351 of the 18th ordinary summit (23 March 2006),

In the light of the announcement by Kuwait and the work programme adopted by the Economic, Development and Social Summit, held in Kuwait on 19 and 20 January 2009,

Endeavouring to enhance implementation of the Agreement on the Liberalization of Air Transport among Arab States, as well as expand its scope and achieve its objectives,

In the light of discussions,

Resolves

I.

1. To call on the Arab States signatory to the Agreement on the Liberalization of Airspace among Arab States that have not ratified it to do so promptly;

2. To call on other Arab States to take the necessary measures to accede to the Agreement;

II. To charge the Council of Arab Ministers of Transport with the following:

1. To review the rules on the economic regulation of Arab air transport prepared by the Arab Civil Aviation Authority as implementing regulations of the Agreement;

2. To explore means of strengthening and galvanizing implementation of the Agreement in the member States that have acceded to it;

3. To submit a report on the progress achieved in implementing the Agreement to the next Arab summit.

(Summit resolution 484, 21st ordinary session – 30 March 2009)

24. Project for the promotion of the Arabic language towards the knowledge society

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General, the report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action, the report of the Secretariat-General on the project for the promotion of the Arabic language towards the knowledge society, the Charter of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO), the draft document on the promotion of the Arabic language for the knowledge society and resolution 7042 (3 March 2009) of the 131st ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at ministerial level,

Resolves

1. To adopt the draft document on the promotion of the Arabic language towards the knowledge society, in accordance with the version annexed to this resolution;

2. To request member States to use the document as guidance in all of their programmes of relevance to the promotion of the Arabic language;

3. To charge ALECSO, in coordination with the Secretariat-General and concerned ministries and institutions in member States, to follow up implementation of the resolution and prepare a periodic report on the progress achieved in this regard for submission to the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level.

(Summit resolution 485, 21st ordinary session – 30 March 2009)

(Annex)

Project for the promotion of the Arabic language towards the knowledge society

Damascus, 19 to 21 August 2008

On the basis of the Riyadh Declaration issued by the Arab summit held on 28 and 29 March 2007, which called for diligent action to "protect the Arab identity, bolster its foundations and secure allegiance to it in the hearts and minds of children, teenagers and young men and women, given that Arabism is not a racial or ethnic concept but rather a common cultural identity, with the Arabic language as its means of expression and of preserving its heritage, and a shared civilizational framework based upon spiritual, ethical and human values, enriched by diversity, plurality, openness to other human cultures and keeping pace with rapid scientific and technical developments, without dissolution, fragmentation or loss of distinctiveness....",

Proceeding from resolution 435 (Damascus, 30 March 2008) of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level, which approves the project for the promotion of the Arabic language towards the knowledge society and extends gratitude to the Syrian Arab Republic for its initiative in launching this project, stating in the preamble that "the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level, having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General and the report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action, proceeding from the cultural heritage of our Arab nation and following up our efforts to promote the Arabic language, which is bound to our culture, history and identity",

Affirming our declaration at the Riyadh summit on the role of the Arabic language in expressing and safeguarding our heritage and its role in the development of joint Arab action by strengthening its presence in all spheres,

Proceeding from the role of the Arabic language in safeguarding our Arab identity, uniting the past, present and future of the Arab nation, bringing about contact and interaction between the peoples of the Arab nation, as the basis of Arab nationalism and epitome of Arab individuality and cultural identity, and its role in supporting sustainable development as the nation's path toward the knowledge society and economic, social and cultural development,

Affirming the importance of the adoption of the Arabic language as one of the official languages of the United Nations and other international and regional bodies, considering this to be a significant achievement and acknowledgement of the importance of the Arabic language as a world language and to have contributed to the safeguarding of its characteristics and development,

Conscious of the impact of linguistic weakness on economic, social and cultural development,

Affirming the need to formulate language plans and policies to empower the Arabic language and protect it from the challenges it faces from globalization, while affirming that the acquisition of foreign languages enriches our Arab culture and Arabic language and its use in comprehensive and sustainable development,

Resolves

1. To approve the project for the promotion of the Arabic language towards the knowledge society and to extend gratitude to the Syrian Arab Republic for its initiative in launching this project;

2. To request the Secretariat-General to forward the project to all concerned bodies and relevant institutions in Member States to study all aspects thereof and propose mechanisms for implementation;

3. To charge the Secretariat-General with submitting a report on the extent of progress achieved on the project to the 130th ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at ministerial level for consideration and further submission to the 21st ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level.

I. Aim of the project

The project for the promotion of the Arabic language towards the knowledge society aims to:

1. Preserve the Arab identity as represented in our mother tongue of the Arabic language;

2. To devote attention to the Arabic language in that it is a fount of knowledge and a means for the nation to move towards the knowledge society;

3. To promote economic, social and cultural development in Arab States, on the basis of the role of the mother tongue in these spheres.

II. Starting points for the project

- To implement the resolution from the Riyadh and Damascus summits;
- To consolidate and deepen the Arab identity;
- To address contemporary Arabic language issues of significance in moving Arab States towards the knowledge society and a knowledge-based economy, and to work with the opportunities and challenges posed by this move;
- To guard against the effect of linguistic weakness on the process of economic, social and cultural development;
- To address human development issues of relevance to the Arabic language, such as education, life-long learning and continuity.

III. Paragraphs of the resolution

1. To formulate a strong linguistic policy and national policies consistent with it, as well as strategies for their implementation through pan-Arab and national programmes (implementing bodies: the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO), ministries of culture, education, higher education and scientific research, and finance, Arabic language academies, the Union of Arab Writers and specialized agencies);

2. To elaborate pan-Arab and national programmes to address Arabic language issues of priority in moving towards the knowledge society and the knowledge economy in the following areas:

- Modernization of Arabic language curricula, use of information and communication technology (ICT), increasing the number of Arabic language institutions, adoption of the principle of life-long learning and attention to Arabic language teachers and professors (implementing bodies: ministries of education, higher education and scientific research);
- The Arabization of science and technology and the establishment of both among the Arab labour force in all sectors, in terms of education, composition and translation, the devotion of significant attention to foreign languages and separation of the question of foreign-language proficiency from that of foreign-language teaching, in that no nation in history has progressed without its language (implementing bodies: ministries of higher education);
- Strengthening of the use of the Arabic language in the media and advertising, promoting such use and elaborating policies and measures accordingly (implementing bodies: ministries of information);

3. To develop programmes for the promotion of research and development; increase the number of institutions working in the field of Arabic-language research

in order to keep pace with the requirements for moving towards the knowledge society and the knowledge economy; coordinate programmes at the pan-Arab level and implement them in Arab universities and research institutes; and establish a higher coordinating body of ministries of higher education and scientific research in order to handle research, particularly in the areas of terminology, the linguistic reservoir, dictionaries, language teaching, standardization of the Arabic language in ICT and its Arabic-language applications, machine translation, the use of vowelling in written Arabic, Arabic letter recognition, Arabic speech recognition and generation, and information management in the Arabic language (implementing bodies: ministries of higher education and scientific research);

4. To promulgate domestic legislation to protect the Arabic language and promote its use, develop its uses in the media, in all forms of advertising and on Arab Internet sites, and to increase the Arab content (implementing bodies: ministries of information, culture, communications and information technology);

5. To develop programmes for raising awareness of the importance of the Arabic language in moving towards the knowledge society and the knowledge economy, it being the only fount of knowledge for the great majority in Arab society (implementing bodies: ministries of information and culture)

6. To affirm the official use of the Arabic language in regional and international forums and in scientific and cultural activities, such as conferences and seminars (implementing bodies: ministries of foreign affairs).

IV. Implementation mechanisms

The following principles and mechanisms are to be adopted in implementing the programmes and projects needed to achieve the above:

1. The concerned ministries in the Arab States, through ministerial councils or their representatives, shall elaborate the policies, plans and measures needed to implement the paragraphs of the resolution, taking into account the Arab efforts made and being made at the pan-Arab and national levels;

2. The results sought from each programme shall be determined and implementation phases and periods set, together with numerical indicators for measuring the achievement of these results;

3. The principle of profit-sharing (profit for all) shall be adopted in financing the programmes specified in the resolution and ensuring that all Arab States participate in and benefit from them;

4. The private sector and civil society shall be encouraged to promote the establishment of "towns for the language industries", such as the content industry, the Arabic-language programming industries, the letter- and speech-recognition industries and the industries for next-generation computers and evidence-based communications, and to promote education, research, development and innovation in these fields;

5. Performance results and indicators for this project shall be presented to subsequent summit conferences.

V. Desired project results

The project will achieve a number of important outcomes at the pan-Arab and national levels, including those of:

1. Establishing knowledge in the language of society and making it accessible to society;

2. Protecting the Arab identity and Arab culture, promoting the Arabic language and preserving its status among the living languages of the world;

3. Linking the products of higher education and Arab scientific research with the Arab labour force and transferring knowledge to that labour force;

4. Facilitating the circulation of specialist knowledge within each sector in the language of its workers, thereby increasing productivity, knowledge capacities and innovation;

5. Promoting the establishment of knowledge-based industries and services;

6. Promoting the currency of the Arabic language in media and advertising activities and in various other circles and contributing to economic, social and cultural development.

25. Elaboration of an Arab plan for strengthening the culture of human rights

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General, the report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action and note verbale No. 159/J of the Kingdom of Morocco, dated 20 January 2009,

Resolves

1. To welcome the proposal of the Kingdom of Morocco concerning the elaboration of an Arab plan for strengthening the culture of human rights;

2. To charge the Secretariat-General, in coordination with member States and Arab human rights organizations and institutions, in particular the Arab Standing Committee on Human Rights, to draft an Arab plan for strengthening the culture of human rights and defining its principles, objectives and mechanisms;

3. To call on member States to provide the Secretariat-General with their proposals in this regard;

4. To present the final version of the plan, after it has been approved by the Arab Standing Committee on Human Rights, to the Council of the League of Arab States at ministerial level as a preliminary to its submission to the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level at its 22nd ordinary session for adoption.

(Summit resolution 486, 21st ordinary session – 30 March 2009)

26. The First Arab Conference for Humanitarian and Development Organizations in the Member States of the League of Arab States

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General and the Doha Declaration issued by the First Arab Conference for Humanitarian and Development Organizations in the Member States of the League of Arab States, held in Doha on 3 and 4 March 2009,

Affirming the importance of facilitating relief operations and humanitarian work,

Commending the efforts of member States to strengthen the capacities of voluntary organizations and charities,

Resolves

1. To extend gratitude to the Qatari Authority for Charitable Works for its initiative to hold the First Arab Conference for Humanitarian and Development Organizations in the Arab States;

2. To take note of the content of the Doha Declaration issued by the First Arab Conference for Humanitarian and Development Organizations in the Member States of the League of Arab States.

(Summit resolution 487, 21st ordinary session – 30 March 2009)

27. Follow-up of implementation of the project for an Arab earth-monitoring satellite system

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied resolution 320 (Algiers, 17 March 2005) of the 17th ordinary session of the League at summit level, resolution 439 (Damascus, 30 March 2008) of the 20th ordinary session of the League at summit level, Economic and Social Council resolution 1742 (28 August 2008) of the 82nd ordinary session of the Economic and Social Council and resolution 298 (22 December 2008) of 20th ordinary session of the Council of Arab Ministers responsible for environment,

Resolves

To form a council at the level of ministers for foreign affairs, comprising the Arab summit troika, the Republic of Tunisia, the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Secretary-General of the League, to devise the best method of triggering implementation of the project for an Arab earth-monitoring satellite system.*

(Summit resolution 488, 21st ordinary session – 30 March 2009)

* The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the State of the United Arab Emirates, the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Sultanate of Oman, the State of Qatar and the State of Kuwait each entered a reservation to the project.

28. Initiative of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali of the Republic of Tunisia to declare 2010 as the International Year of Youth

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General and the report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action,

Resolves

To endorse and express appreciation for the initiative of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali of the Republic of Tunisia calling for the naming of 2010 as the International Year of Youth and for the convening an international youth conference under United Nations auspices.

(Summit resolution 489, 21st ordinary session – 30 March 2009)

Information issues

29. Damascus communiqué entitled "Towards the integration of information and communications for Arab human development"

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General, the report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action and the Damascus communiqué issued by the joint meeting of the Councils of Arab Ministers of Information and Communications on 17 November 2008 on the integration of information and communications for Arab human development,

On the basis of resolution 1 of 17 November 2008, adopted by the joint meeting of the Councils of Arab Ministers of Information and Communications,

Resolves

1. To adopt the Damascus communiqué mentioned, comprising the 10-year plan for the participatory development of information and communications in the Arab region, in the version annexed hereto, as a document for joint Arab action;

2. To request the Councils of Arab Ministers of Information and Communications to follow up implementation of the projects and programmes of this 10-year plan and inform the Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level of what is being done in this regard.

(Summit resolution 490, 21st ordinary session – 30 March 2009)

(Annex)

League of Arab States

Secretariat-General

"Towards the integration of information and communications for Arab human development"

Damascus communiqué issued by the joint meeting of the Councils of Arab Ministers of Information and Communications

(Damascus: 17 November 2008)

The Councils of Arab Ministers of Information and Communications,

Proceeding from the Charter of the League of Arab States, in both letter and spirit, and the resolutions and instruments adopted by the League of Arab States at summit level concerning the promotion and development of joint Arab action,

Achieving the purpose to which both Councils aspire in holding a joint meeting, namely, to strengthen the integration of information and communications and to benefit mutually from their experiences,

Aware of the increasing joint role of information and communications in the life of the modern-day Arab and in enabling his constructive interaction with his society and with the world,

Convinced that the integration and combination of information and communications is the general path to follow for the development of these two areas in the foreseeable future,

Desirous of providing the widest opportunities for the Arab individual to benefit from the integrated applications of information and communications technology (ICT), of making timely efforts to close the digital divide, whether within an individual State, among Arab States, or among Arab States and the rest of the world, so as to enrich the fields of knowledge, thought, education, health, community services and so forth,

Promoting the right of the Arab individual to access sophisticated information and communication services,

Empowering our Arab nation to make an effective contribution to the international community in building a common information society, with a human-centred approach to development,

Contributing to implementation of the outcomes of the World Summits on the Information Society (Geneva 2003 and Tunis 2005),

Declare

I. The launch of the 10-year Arab plan for the participatory development of information and communications (2009-2018) with a view to achievement of the following goals:

1. To spread universally the use of integrated information and communication applications in order to strengthen socio-economic development efforts;

2. To reduce the digital and knowledge divide and achieve the highest rates of fair and comprehensive implementation;

3. To develop the human resources and skills needed to achieve the requirements for building the knowledge society and the knowledge economy;

4. To strengthen the continuity of information and communications at the local, Arab and international levels to enable the Arab digital content and its innovative components to have a presence at the global information level;

II. The establishment of a mechanism for permanent cooperation and coordination between the two Councils through their technical secretariats in order to promote integration of their policies and plans.

In order to achieve the goals of the 10-year Arab plan for the participatory development of information and communications, the two Councils agreed on the following core areas of activity:

Core area 1: Coordination and integration

1. To coordinate between the information sector and the ICT sector in drawing up strategies and planning projects, initiatives and project in areas of shared interest to both sectors;

2. To elaborate a joint programme for the conversion from analogue transmission to the full digital transmission of joint means of information and communication, which would encourage investment in this field and consequently benefit the existing key structures;

3. To ensure cooperation and coordination between the information sector and the ICT sector in providing non-profit-making community services, particularly in the areas of education, health and culture;

4. To expand the scope of cooperation with regional and international bodies concerned with matters relating to the integration of information and communications, and to devote due attention to the organization of activities on the global development of areas of integration between information and communications;

5. To urge member States to promote the integration of information and communications, in accordance with their respective laws and legislation;

6. To urge member States to take all administrative, institutional and organizational measures to facilitate the integration of information and communications;

7. To call on concerned research centres, institutes and colleges in the Arab nation to study and cooperate in joint areas of information and communications;

Core area 2: Capacity-building

8. To promote the dissemination of integrated information and communication applications, particularly those which allow the Arab individual to develop his knowledge, enrich his ideas and being and keep pace with the global progress in knowledge, so as to facilitate his access to and equipment, programmes and opportunities to acquire and update constantly the know-how in their use

9. To develop the basic structure for the integration of information and communications by establishing a hub for a high-capacity Arab communications network, starting with the optical fibre networks already available in some Arab States;

10. To develop human resources in the areas of ICT integration, in particular next-generation networks and broadband services, the result of which will be to upgrade and develop overall community performance and help in providing growing numbers of rewarding opportunities for individuals, families and institutions;

11. To build the capacity of public and private institutions and bodies concerned with the components of the information society to contribute actively to building the Arab information society and thereafter the Arab knowledge society, particularly in terms of the ongoing development of its technical and human skills and the organization of periodic meetings for the exchange of expertise and ideas;

12. To identify areas of scientific and technological progress in the field of joint ICT, assess the feasibility of application and of investment opportunities in the Arab region and also pinpoint global commercial models for the integration of information and communication services and information technology;

13. To encourage universities and research centres in the Arab States to conduct research relating to the technology of integrating information and communications.

Core area 3: Standards

14. To safeguard and respect all forms of intellectual property rights at all stages of the use of shared information and communications platforms, and to combat digital piracy through the different communication media;

15. To develop a full set of the standards and standard indicators required to follow up and evaluate progress in building the Arab information society;

16. In the context of technical standardization, to strive through the administrative and organizational bodies of the information sector and the ICT sector to apply the principle of standardizing systems, equipment and apparatus in accordance with international standards, whether for services provided to the public or for uses specific to operators, service providers and companies;

17. To urge member States to participate in the working groups and activities of the Telecommunication Standardization Sector of the International Telecommunication Union and other relevant international bodies.

Core area 4: Investment

18. To elaborate a plan, in cooperation with the Arab Information and Communication Technologies Organization (AICTO), the Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU), the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) and other joint Arab action institutions and relevant Arab professional unions, to provide and encourage the production of equipment for shared information and communication platforms on Arab markets in an amount and at a price that meet the requirements of the sectors most in need of such equipment, in particular school pupils, university students and young researchers and professionals;

Core area 5: The digital divide and digital content

19. While the integration of information and communications is essential, it has more of a vital impact if the aims of the content are achieved. Efforts should therefore be made to increase investment in the Arab digital content industry, now an industry in its own right with a growing impact on national economies;

20. To request AITCO, ASBU and ALECSO to continue the technical and economic studies required to launch digital services across the different media in the Arab region;

21. To digitalize television and radio archives and library and museum archives in Arab States through the competent authorities;

22. To provide access to a comprehensive service in order to fulfil the needs relating to information and communications, information technology and high-quality content, and to facilitate access to services, particularly for groups that have not yet been able to assimilate the world of communications, persons with special needs, women, children and those in remote areas, in order to promote their social integration.

Implementation and follow-up mechanisms

1. The permanent coordinating mechanism between the two Councils shall, through their technical secretariats, be assigned the task of following up achievement of the goals of the 10-year Arab plan for the participatory development of information and communications 2009-2018 and the implementation of its core concerns, in accordance with the approaches and versions contained in resolution 2 adopted by this joint ministerial meeting;

2. Progress in implementing the 10-year Arab plan for the participatory development of information and communications 2009-1018 shall be evaluated and followed up in the joint meetings of the two Ministerial Councils and their two standing committees, or as required, in the manner set forth in resolutions 1 and 2 adopted by this joint meeting.

Financial and administrative issues

30. The financial position of the Secretariat-General of the League of Arab States

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General and the report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action,

Pursuant to all resolutions on the financial position, the most recent of which was resolution 446 (30 March 2008) of the Damascus summit,

Resolves

I. To call on member States to implement the resolutions of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level, the most recent of which was the resolution of the Damascus summit on the financial position of the Secretariat-General, particularly in relation to the following:

1. The need for member States to undertake to pay their financial contributions in full during the first three months of the financial year, in accordance with article 29 of the financial system, and in the budget currency;

2. The commitment of member States in arrears to pay 10 per cent of such arrears annually, in addition to their annual shares;

3. The request for member States that have entered reservations concerning their current contribution rates to the budget of the Secretariat-General to withdraw these reservations;

4. The requirement for member States to pay their contributions to the general reserve of the Secretariat-General with effect from the 2006 budget, in accordance with articles 23 and 24 of the financial system of the Secretariat-General of the League of Arab States;

5. Steps to address the position of States that are unable to pay their set contributions to the budget of the Secretariat-General of the League and the request for these States to pay their share of the 2006, 2007 and 2008 budgets;

II. To request member States that have not paid their contribution to the allocation for opening the Iraq mission (US$ 2 million) and to the allocation for the continuation of its work (US$ 1 million) to do so promptly.

(Summit resolution 491, 21st ordinary session – 30 March 2009)

31. The budget of the Secretariat-General of the League of Arab States

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General and the report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action,

Pursuant to the deliberations of Arab leaders at the closed working session on 30 March 2009,

Resolves

To approve an annual budget for the League of Arab States of US$ 51,295,221 instead of US$ 46,295,221 (an increase of US$ 5 million), with effect from the 2010 budget.

(Summit resolution 492, 21st ordinary session – 30 March 2009)

32. Expression of gratitude and appreciation to the State of Qatar for its hosting of the 21st ordinary session of the summit in the city of Doha

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

In appreciation of the generosity of the State of Qatar in hosting the proceedings of the 21st ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level and its estimable efforts in preparing and organizing the work of this session,

Resolves

1. To extend sincere greetings and gratitude to the Amir, Government and people of the Sate of Qatar for the warm reception and generous hospitality extended to the delegations participating in the Arab summit;

2. To express deep gratitude and recognition to His Highness Shaikh Ahmad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar, for his great efforts to provide the opportunities for the convening of the summit and for the success of its proceedings.

(Summit resolution 493, 21st ordinary session – 30 March 2009)

33. Venue and date of the 22nd ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Pursuant to the annex to the Charter on the mechanism for convening the regular ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

On the basis of the intervention by Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki requesting that the Republic of Iraq host the 23rd ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level in March 2011 instead of the 22nd ordinary session in March 2010,

In the light of the invitation made at the closing session of the Doha summit by Brother Leader Muammar al-Qadhafi, Guide of the First of September Great Revolution, to his brothers, the leaders of the Arab States, to host the next ordinary session,

Resolves

To convene the 22nd ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level under the presidency of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, in March 2010.

(Summit resolution 494, 21st ordinary session – 30 March 2009)

Q/21(03/09)16-`A(0199)

Council of the League of Arab States
21st ordinary session
Doha - State of Qatar
3 Rabi` II A.H. 1430 (30 March A.D. 2009)

The Doha Declaration

We, the leaders of the Arab States, assembling at the 21st session of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level in Doha, capital of the State of Qatar, on 3 Rabi` II A.H. 1430 (30 March A.D. 2009),

Having carefully studied the current Arab situation and the surrounding circumstances, Arab relations, the challenges facing the nation, the dangers besetting Arab national security and the grave threats to the Middle East peace process,

Taking into account the current changes in the international order, their repercussions on the Arab region and the enormous challenges that the present transformations, including the global economic crisis, represent for the Arab regional order,

Affirming our commitment to the goals and purposes set forth in the Charter of the League of Arab States and in its supplementary pacts and agreements, our resolve to implement them to ensure the cohesion of the nation and achieve prosperity for our people, and our adherence to the noble principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations for a world in which peace and security prevail and which is characterized by freedom, justice and equality,

Proceeding from our pan-Arab responsibility to promote broader horizons in Arab relations and work to strengthen ties in order to achieve the supreme interests and aspirations of the nation, preserve its pan-Arab security and safeguard its dignity and pride,

Declare as follows:

We are committed to Arab solidarity, adhere to noble Arab values and traditions and emphasize the need to preserve the integrity of all Arab States, respect their sovereignty and their legitimate right to defend their national independence and their resources and capacities, have due regard for their political systems in accordance with their constitutions and laws, and ensure non-interference in their domestic affairs.

We emphasize the need to resolve Arab disputes through purposeful and constructive dialogue and the need for efforts to strengthen Arab relations, consolidate Arab ties and connections and safeguard the supreme interests of the Arab nation.

We call for the continuation of efforts aimed at developing and advancing the system of joint Arab action, implementing its mechanisms and furthering its performance, thus enabling us to create effective policies for the reconstruction of an integrated Arab society with the resources and capacities to match the new

challenges of the forthcoming stage and keep pace with any regional and international developments that may occur.

We salute in admiration and esteem the Palestinian people in their heroic resistance in the face of the iniquitous Israeli incursion into the Gaza Strip; affirm support their steadfastness and opposition to this incursion; vehemently condemn the savage Israeli incursion into the Gaza Strip; call for a halt to the Israeli aggression, the establishment of a ceasefire, the lifting of the unjust blockade on the Gaza Strip and the opening of all crossings; affirm that Israel, the occupying Power, is held legally and materially responsible for the war crimes that it perpetrated and for its violations of international law and international humanitarian law; and call on the international community to prosecute those responsible for such crimes and refer them to international courts.

We affirm our full support for the Arab efforts to end the division in the Palestinian national ranks and to strengthen national unity; call on all Palestinian factions to respond to these efforts in order to ensure achievement of the desired national reconciliation and secure the geographical and political unity of the Palestinian territories; and renew our support for the Palestinian National Authority and respect for the legitimate institutions of the Palestinian National Authority emanating from the Palestine Liberation Organization, including the elected Palestinian Legislative Council.

We call for a halt to unilateral Israeli policies and measures designed to impose a status quo, including the immediate cessation of all settlement activities and removal of the apartheid wall, for steps to ensure that the status of East Jerusalem remains intact and for preservation of the Islamic and Christian sites that it houses.

We affirm the unacceptability of the Israeli obstruction and procrastination in which successive Israeli Governments have persisted and similarly affirm the need to set a time frame for Israel's fulfilment of its obligations vis-à-vis the peace process and to take clear and determined steps to carry out the commitments under the peace process on the basis of the terms of reference represented in relevant United Nations resolutions, the principle of land for peace and also the Arab Peace Initiative.

We affirm the need for a just solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict in the context of international legitimacy and also affirm that a just and comprehensive peace in the region is attainable only through an end to the Israeli occupation and withdrawal from all occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, including the occupied Syrian Arab Golan, to the line of 4 June 1967, as well as from the remaining occupied territories in south Lebanon, the Shab'a farmlands, the Kafr Shuba hills and the northern part of the village of Ghajar. We further affirm the need for an agreed and just solution to the Palestinian refugee problem, the rejection of all forms of settlement and the establishment of an independent sovereign Palestinian State, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

We affirm our solidarity with the Sudan, our rejection of the decision of Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court concerning President Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir, our support for our sister the Sudan in countering all efforts to undermine its sovereignty, security, independence and territorial integrity, and our rejection of all measures that threaten the peace efforts made by the State of

Qatar in the context of the Arab-African Ministerial Committee and in coordination with the Joint African Union-United Nations Chief Mediator for Darfur, efforts for which we affirm our support with a view to the establishment of peace in Darfur.

We commend the Arab summit conference for the steps taken in Iraq to achieve security, stability and national unity, reject sectarianism and stabilize the political process, with the participation of all components of Iraqi society.

We welcome the agreement concluded between our brothers in Somalia, the election of Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed as President of the Republic of Somalia and the formation of a Somali Transitional Government and a Somali transitional parliament, and affirm the doubling of Arab efforts to provide all forms of support to the Republic of Somalia.

We affirm our non-recognition of the results of the referendum held in France on 29 March 2009 on incorporating the Comoros island of Mayotte and turning it into a French overseas territory and consider the measures taken by France pursuant to the results of this referendum to be unlawful and invalid, giving rise to no rights and establishing no obligations.

We express hope that the Islamic Republic of Iran will respond to the initiative of the United Arab Emirates and to Arab efforts to find a solution to the question of the islands of Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa through serious and direct negotiations or through recourse to the International Court of Justice.

We reaffirm our condemnation of terrorism in all of its forms and manifestations, whatever its course, motives and justifications, and the need to address its root causes and eliminate the factors that feed it.

We call on the international community to empty the Middle East region of all weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons; take steps to establish a nuclear-weapons-free zone in the Middle East so as to promote international peace and security; compel Israel to sign the Treaty on the on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; and subject all of Israel's nuclear facilities and activities to the safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

We affirm the legitimate right of Arab States to acquire nuclear technology for peaceful uses in all areas that serve its development programmes, support its economies and diversify their sources of energy.

We commend the ongoing efforts of the Arab States to expand the practices of rational management and apply the principles of transparency, responsibility, accountability and popular participation, and we affirm our determination to pursue political and social reforms in Arab societies in order to achieve social integration, national harmony and civil peace.

We call for the intensification of dialogue among cultures and peoples, for the establishment of a culture of openness and acceptance of others, and for support for the principles of fraternity, tolerance and respect for human values that emphasize human rights, promote human dignity and safeguard freedom.

We welcome the outcomes and resolutions of the Arab Economic, Development and Social Summit held in Kuwait on 19 and 20 January 2009 and affirm our resolve to follow up and implement its outcomes in the interests of joint Arab economic action and the development of Arab societies.

We affirm our continuing endeavour to establish a customs union in order to pave the way for an Arab common market, ensure shared Arab economic interests and safeguard the Arab gains made at the social and economic levels so as to strengthen Arab economies, help in alleviating the adverse affects of the global economic crisis, develop partnership, increase mutual investment and establish joint productive projects.

We call on the international community to work at doubling efforts and strengthening close cooperation among its States, to participate actively in the global efforts aimed at implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and the eradication of hunger and poverty, and to increase financial support for the least developed countries in order to narrow the gap in the social and economic development levels of rich and poor countries.

We affirm the importance of a strong social upbringing for Arab children and the need to bring out their Arab identity through the development of a value system in which the Arab child is raised to be aware of his identity, instilling him with pride in his nationality, his Arabness, his Arab heritage and its splendours and contribution to the development of human society.

We call for the provision of opportunities for young people to participate effectively the life of society and engage in employment, and for fostering of the national sentiment in them and for strengthening of their belonging to Arab civilization and of their Arab identity.

We emphasize the need to devote particular attention to the Arabic language as a fount of knowledge and Arab culture, which encompasses heritage, culture and identity, and to cementing it and developing the curricula for teaching it in line with the rapid global developments in science and knowledge.

We extend sincere gratitude and tremendous appreciation to His Highness Shaikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar, for his judicious management of work of the summit and for his direction of its deliberations, and express our full confidence that his leadership will boost the success and development of joint Arab action and firmly establish Arab solidarity so as to benefit the Arab nation and its reform, given the wisdom, expertise and devotion to Arab solidarity for which he is known.

We also express our deep appreciation to the State of Qatar and its welcoming people for the warmth of their reception and their generous hospitality, as well as for the flawless organization of the meetings of the 21st ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level. We also greatly appreciate the intensive consultations conducted with Arab States to ensure the success of the summit and its convening in the best and smoothest of circumstances.

We express our sincere gratitude for the continuous efforts of Mr. Amre Moussa, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, to promote joint Arab action.

Q/21(03/09)/17 - Kh(0200)

Address by His Highness Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar, at the opening session

In the name of God the Merciful, the Compassionate

Your Majesties, Excellencies and Highnesses,

I welcome you to the 21st ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level and declare the meeting open.

I welcome you to an Arab homeland that is making every effort to be an open forum for free, unconditional and unrestricted dialogue, which may be right or wrong but which is the responsibility of participants, that being a characteristic of freedom.

Brothers, Your Majesties, Excellencies and Highnesses,

Secretary-General of the United Nations,

Secretary-General of the League of Arab States,

Honourable audience,

I welcome you to this country, which receives you with cordiality, appreciation and respect.

I welcome you to this country that receives you with an open heart and mind, offering you its sincerest wishes for success and God's blessings.

I welcome you to a country that aspires to perform a useful role in Arab public action, cooperating in good faith and with good intentions with its brothers and appreciating the merit and status of each of them.

I welcome you at a time that requires your opinion and your decision, at a time when the nation awaits the prudence of your reason and wisdom and hopes for reassurance to restore some hope in circumstances that are fraught with turmoil and anxiety.

Dear brothers,

Allow me at the outset to extend my deep thanks and appreciation to my brother, President Bashar al-Asad of the Syrian Arab Republic, for his sincere efforts during his presidency of the past summit, which contributed to the advancement of joint Arab action.

Dear brothers,

This meeting has an agenda prepared by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs, in cooperation with the Secretariat-General of the League of Arab States, and each one of us has something to say concerning the items on this full agenda. With your permission, however, in addition to the agenda prepared for this regular meeting, I should today like to refer to a subject that I regard as vitally important.

I wish to say that, had this meeting not been due to take place by virtue of the annual round of Arab summits, it would have taken place on account of the emergencies that have taken not only our countries but the world by surprise. We

are all witnessing their results and feeling their impact through the fluctuations, problems and crises occurring in every aspect and at all levels. What makes them graver still is that they came to burden us all at once, their manifestations overlapping and interacting, their effects accumulating and growing so complex that they seemed greater than the capacity of those whose job it is to tackle them. We say this with a strong belief and firm conviction that all of these fluctuations, problems and crises can ultimately be beaten through the international resolve to overcome a storm with humanitarian and financial costs that no one party alone can shoulder.

Our Arab world was among the regions of the world most vulnerable to the storm. The financial and economical crisis to which the world was and still remains exposed is the attention-grabbing spectacle, yet this storm affected not only the resources and reserves of the Arab world but also revealed the severe frailty of the systems on which the world was reliant in controlling its affairs and maintaining its balance. This is a strategic development with far-reaching consequences.

The international financial system has been struck, the international economic system has been struck and the international legal system has also been struck.

The overall result was to shake the foundation on which systems in every field are based, namely confidence. The blow to this foundation is in fact the first thing that threatens us, in that public and mutual confidence is in itself the most important basis of the international legitimacy that reassures everyone of the soundness of measures and transactions and allows expectations to form on all political, economic, social and intellectual levels. The experiences of humanity since the dawn of history teach us that no policy can be conceived, established and achieve success without the element of self-confidence, confidence in others and confidence in regulations and laws so that humankind knows what can be expected in order to calculate its moves.

Certainly, we can see that the impact of this crisis of confidence has affected the Arab world more than elsewhere; given its location, its resources, its issues and its problems, as well as its circumstances both previous and subsequent, the Arab world is exposed to the wind and is at the centre of the storm.

The most serious aspect of this crisis of confidence is that it creates climates in which it is difficult to ascertain the positions of power, the intentions of policies, the soundness of evaluations and the calculation of possibilities. What is clear is that matters we have long taken for granted need to be reviewed. Policies that we have adopted and sought need to be reviewed and our customary approaches and methods also need to be reviewed.

In full responsibility, we say that we need to review and not to retreat, because what happened makes it incumbent on us to think, to examine things closely and to use our judgement. This we must do with strong nerves, enlightened thought and trust in God Almighty.

Dear brothers,

The global environmental system has been affected before and experts knew the causes, but decision-makers have thus far been incapable of taking the measures needed to avert threats to the future of humankind, the reason the perception by some that the threats to the environment are in abeyance. This perception is

inaccurate and now, with the global financial system in disarray, we find ourselves facing an acute dilemma that is felt in every country and by every individual. Nevertheless, we have seen with our own eyes that the world's top expert stood nonplussed and powerless before the financial and economic crisis, for they neither expected it nor knew its causes, and failed to make an accurate diagnosis for treatment. This means that the changes in ideas, science and technologies that took place still need further study, more precise identification of the reasons and a wide-ranging and comprehensive review, in which Arabs should take part with the rest of the world and not stand by as onlookers.

In fact, there are reasons that call for greater understanding on the part of the Arab world. First, there are the repercussions of the crisis itself. Secondly, the crisis has seized the attention of the world and diverted it away from our issues, especially given the political variables directly affecting us, including a United States presidency that is not only new but also different and has brought new blood capable of renewal to United States decision-making, elections in Israel that we must monitor in terms of their direction and impact on the security situation in the region, and developments in neighbouring areas that we must deal with fittingly in order not to increase tension in the region and thereby heighten the disquiet and unrest. Thirdly, changes in the positions of power and centres of influence are visible worldwide. Fourthly, national projects, nation states and country clusters are being established around us, leading our citizens to ask where the Arab project is. Fifthly, even our own internal disputes urge that we at least produce a mechanism to manage our differences so that they do not damage cordiality.

For all of those reasons, we will be directly and indirectly faced with political and social repercussions that require preparedness and alertness, for history teaches us that storms pass, but that their aftermath lingers long.

The least we can expect is that this crisis will leave behind consequences and difficulties for our region that we must be ready to control and manage if we are unable to find solutions to them. They will leave behind them economic, social and political problems; there are possibilities of a slow-down in growth, possibilities of a recession and possibilities of unemployment. Given the partial erosion of our reserves as a result of the plummeting global markets, coupled with our diminishing resources as a result of falling oil prices, economic and social security in our countries is a requirement that carries with it enormous responsibilities and tasks.

Dear brothers,

Before I conclude my address, I must reiterate that I welcome, endorse and commend the gracious and wise initiative launched by my brother the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, at the Kuwait summit, in which he called for Arab reconciliation. The initiative indeed expressed his eagerness to bring Arabs together, achieve Arab solidarity and overcome any differences in opinion among our countries, differences that are still ultimately about the means and not the end, for we all have one end in mind, namely the interest of our peoples and nation and the raising of its status.

I should also like to take this opportunity to express the pride that I and all of us feel in the fact that my brother, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, is to participate as representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the G-20 economic summit in London. I do not exaggerate when I say we feel that he represents all of

us in this task, in which we wish him success. We are confident that he will represent the interests of our nation and our Arab world and even those of the developing countries, which are hard done by, and their aspirations for a more balanced relationship with the advanced industrial countries.

Dear brothers,

The nation looks to you and the community of States looks forward to your contribution. The importance of the ongoing reconciliation processes and the need to re-establish cordial relations demand that we agree and cooperate on ideas, goals and means between ourselves and between us and the whole world.

May peace and God's mercy and blessing be upon you.

Q/21(03/09)/15-Kh(0198)

Address by Mr. Amre Moussa, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, at the opening session

Your Highness Shaikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani

Amir of the State of Qatar

I am pleased to convey sincere congratulations to you on the convening of the Arab summit under your auspices and your presidency. It is my hope that this summit will be a prelude to reconciliation and harmony and a point of departure for solidarity, mutual understanding and peace, and that an Arab consensus on addressing international developments, which are well known for their susceptibilities, pitfalls and risks, will take root within its framework.

I also express appreciation to President Bashar al-Asad for a presidency that achieved its task. During that presidency, the process of Arab and Palestinian reconciliation was launched and a budding consensus and calm with regard to Arab relations emerged. In that regard, I should like to salute the initiative of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdul Aziz bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, for restoring the Arab house to order, the efforts of President Hosni Mubarak to restore the Palestinian house to order and the valuable endeavours of the Amir of Kuwait, Shaikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, President of the Social and Economic Development Summit, for bringing the two together and achieving unanimity.

I should like to take this opportunity to welcome President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed of the Republic of Somalia to his first Arab summit and to wish him and his country every success in rebuilding the State.

Your Majesties, Excellences and Highnesses,

We are gathered here today on the shores of the Arabian Gulf at a delicate juncture for the Arab world and the region at large, in that the challenges are no longer confined solely to political or security problems but now also encompass financial and economic problems. The impact of the global financial and economic crisis is firmly knocking on everyone's door, but more important and critical is the challenge inflicted by global policies that were extremely conservative and acutely problematic and arrogant, as well as ambiguous in terms of their political theory and ideological base, a challenge that brought an unprecedented crisis in relations between the West, Islam and Arabism. The time has truly come for us to pause or for foreign meddling in Arab affairs and disregard of legitimate Arab interests to stop.

Mr. President,

Yes, there are valid reasons for us to caution against foreign interventionist policies from which we have suffered greatly, but we must also be wary of reasons stemming from our own societies and from some of our own policies and practices, which are also reasons for the decline in our contribution to the course of today's world.

Herein lies the challenge, which demands that we rise to its level and moreover rise above it by establishing our positive presence and developing our contributions to regional and international life, that we accept the challenge of to be

or not to be and that we achieve progress and advancement in the interest of becoming not only part of the age but also one of its pioneers.

Yes, Arab mechanisms have moved towards modernization and reform, and the documents of the Tunis summit in 2004 demonstrate an increasing Arab awareness that we have much to do and that the road ahead is long. To recognize inadequacy and inaction is one thing, however. To steel ourselves is another.

Concerning what we have done as evidence of awakening, I would not say that it is a major awakening, but rather an important step, and I would like to enumerate some of the relatively positive aspects, as follows:

1. Concerning development and modernization, the process has in fact begun in various Arab States, even if it is slow and somewhat tentative;

2. Concerning Arab integration, the common Arab system has made considerable progress in channelling joint Arab action in the socio-economic context and here we might mention the stages of economic progress achieved in several Arab States;

3. As for the agreement reached at the Kuwait summit on an ambitious, practical and viable plan in the field of social and economic development, implementation measures began immediately after the summit had ended;

4. Concerning reconciliation and the arrival at an Arab consensus, they are still in the initial stages and cannot be said to have been finalized or established, but the direction of the compass is now clearer;

5. Concerning the Arab-Israeli dispute, the Arab States agreed on a peaceful initiative that is still on the table and subsequently agreed in the light of Israel's failure to respond that the initiative should not remain there much longer;

6. Resources have been made available for an effective Arab diplomatic movement, as occurred in London, as is taking place now with regard to the achievement of Palestinian reconciliation and as in our attempt to assist the completion of national reconciliation in Iraq, our involvement in the establishment of peace between the north and south of the Sudan and in Darfur, our efforts in Somalia, our support for the Comoros islands, our united stand in supporting the return of the three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates and our efforts concerning the position in Mauritania, the promotion of its stability and the safeguarding of its democratic experiment;

7. Concerning the conflict of civilizations and the accusations levelled at us and our culture, Arabs united in responding and in suggesting and formulating a position to counteract this patronizing trend. In many instances, the onslaught consequently abated, which is attributable to our agreed policy and active coordination with other States and blocs that did not accept the neo-conservative arguments propounded against Arabs and Muslims;

8. When Arabs perceived that their regional organization, the League of Arab States, was ready and able to take regional action and undertake the defence of Arab rights and interests in international forums, they spared no time in implementing proposals for its reform. As a result, clauses promoting the League's activity were added to the Charter, the implementation of resolutions escalated in pace and the budget increased, as did the commitment to meet it;

9. The problems facing us were candidly broached and no longer discussed only behind closed doors or in secret by leaderships, with peoples excluded. The position on Arab-Iranian relations, for instance, came to be discussed by the Arab public, with its diverse views, and relations with the United States became an all-consuming matter for everyone, at the highest levels of Government, in the political arena and also in public places and coffee shops, which in itself is progress towards true democracy. The clear requirement is that Arab politics should not fly towards the reverse of what people want and are content with in their collective consciousness. What is required is the identification of policies that marry the mind of government with the feelings of the people;

10. There is now an unprecedented information movement in the Arab world. Incomplete and sometimes equivocal as it may be, if we compare the Arab world and its institutions of expression today with how they were in the recent past, there is a vast difference in favour of freedom of expression, even though it has not yet been fully realized or reached maturity in all cases.

These are brief examples of the key Arab developments and their positive aspects. On the other hand, however, there are many negative aspects that pose a serious obstacle in the move towards a different future. The most important of these negative aspects lie in the following:

1. The defeatist tendency of the Arab political mentality, which it is now time to tackle, in addition to a political tendency to accept foreign "advice", which it is now time to end. Many criteria are involved and do not necessarily include those for Arab reconciliation, whether collective or individual;

2. The hazy understanding of international action in the context of peace, despite the clear need for a genuine common position. Policy is not based on courtesies such as those which some international policies were seeking to obtain for Israel on the pretext of preparing the climate for what were termed Israeli concessions, which confirms it as delusion and deception; during the so-called peace process and since Madrid in 1991, Israel has carried out not a single action that can be regarded as progress or as suggesting progress. The plan was to drag Arabs step by step towards normalization in favour of Israel, with nothing in return, something that must be guarded against in order to avoid any repetition. We are still awaiting specific approaches from the new United States Administration, although we have seen positive groundwork for which we take the trouble to express our welcome;

3. The ambivalent action towards democracy and the slow implementation of the documents relating to development adopted in Tunis;

4. Education, education - the Arab world is still far from achieving the internationally required standards in terms of its outputs from schools and universities, in which regard the gap is truly wide and the process for implementing the decisions taken within the system of joint Arab action has not yet taken off in the manner hoped for. As long as this grave situation continues - that is to say the fall in standards of education, which makes for failing generations and weak nations — no true development of our societies can be expected in the foreseeable future other than the formal developments made possible by modern life, which are meaningless on the scales of modernization and provide no added value to the weight of nations;

5. Science and scientific research - here Arab societies are clearly behind in touching the horizons of advanced science, opening the doors to modern knowledge and encouraging scientific innovation and invention. The contribution of the Arab world to this field is practically nil at the international level and Arab universities are at the bottom of the list of universities that produce and develop the capabilities of scientists. A neighbouring developing country has moreover begun to conquer and send satellites into space, strengthening its security with a vigour founded on the understanding, application and harnessing of modern science at the disposal of its people;

6. Knowledge - we must acknowledge the decline in the tools of knowledge in Arab societies. The time has come to end the break with the universal path of general knowledge about literature, the humanities, arts, writing and the various tools of cultural innovation.

We must leave no book fair without our participation in it, no art without our contribution to its enrichment and no literature without our translation of its main works into our language. We must also seek to have our books and our poetry translated into other languages. The Arab University and its institutions are attempting to do this, but a number of member States are not enthusiastic. In this regard, I must congratulate Qatar for the cultural journey on which it has embarked.

My suggestion that forthcoming summits should focus on and encourage science, education, knowledge and innovation could give free rein to the move towards a climate of broadening Arab scientific and cultural knowledge, which would have an enormous impact in redefining our world, not to say in defining ourselves and our capabilities.

In this regard, a number of Arab States have come to realize the advantage of this approach and have established some well-known forums and think-tanks. The time has come, however, for all of that to serve as a conduit for a well-rounded plan to return the knowledge culture and economy to the fore. My hope is that the current economic crisis will not have a greatly adverse effect on Arab activities in this area.

7. Economic development - the Arab University has presented numerous initiatives in this context, most recently the convening of the Kuwait summit. It is an issue, however, that requires a revolution in integrated collective development. The development of one country or development in each country separately will not constitute comprehensive regional development unless in accordance with a plan that is integrated from the outset. Implementation of the resolutions of the Kuwait summit, in particular the following three resolutions, will be enormously beneficial in this regard:

(a) The resolution on the establishment of an Arab customs union by 2015;

(b) The initiative announced by the Amir of Kuwait to encourage small- and medium-size industries in the Arab world to set up a fund of US$ 2 billion, with Kuwait shouldering the first US$ 500 million;

(c) The resolution concerning joint projects to link roads, railways, land and air connections and electrical and gas networks.

In the context of the two resolutions on economic development, I should like to mention the need for collective follow-up of the global economic crisis and for

the Arab Monetary Fund to monitor the effects of the crisis on Arab economies and report periodically to member States on its course and the consequences for us.

8. Social development - although some progress has been achieved in a number of social fields, more is still needed in such areas as the family, women, children, young people, population increase, illiteracy, unemployment and environment. These are also linked with the standard of education and the need for solid action in the area of development with a bold view to the future, while at the same time ensuring that the cultural heritage and bases of our societies remain intact.

Mr. President,

Your Majesties, Excellencies and Highnesses,

Allow me after this general review to return to the situation in regional politics and mention a number of important issues being addressed by this summit:

1. The Israeli incursion into Gaza brought us up against an Israeli policy that had reached a stage of virtual folly and against military operations that were typically rash and hazardous. Indeed, the targeting of civilians demonstrated that Israeli military thinking was approaching madness and the war crimes committed with a sense of immunity from international law were but a grave development for the worse about which no one should remain silent or stand passive. How could it be otherwise when we have heard soldiers of the Israeli occupation themselves talking about orders they had been given to kill women and children and create panic and turmoil among civilians and their families. The Arab University has asked an independent international legal committee comprising a number of top legal experts from Europe, South Africa and Australia and international forensic experts to investigate and ascertain what happened in Gaza. I expect its report in the next few weeks after it has conducted a fact-finding visit to the Strip. As soon as it arrives, I will call an urgent meeting of the Council of Ministers as a preliminary to taking the matter to the competent international judicial authorities. We shall not be lenient in calling the war criminals to account. In that regard, it is my hope that the competent international authorities will prove their impartiality and their desire for justice and will distance themselves from double standards when we provide them with the conclusions of the international investigation committees concerning what happened in Gaza.

2. It is true that we have been and remain committed to putting forward our peace initiative, even if it is for the time being, but peace initiatives - Arab or non-Arab - are made to be respected and worked with and to be put on the table for genuine negotiation - not sham or mock negotiation, such as that witnessed during the past year. Nor can there be any serious negotiation while Israeli settlement is gaining pace, causing distress in the occupied territories and making the establishment of a viable Palestinian State, not to mention the arrival at a peaceful solution, impossible. Whatever Government it may be under - for there is no difference between them - Israel must take heed of our statement that the choice is peace for land. There is no alternative and this applies to Jerusalem, just as it applies to the other occupied territories in Palestine, Syria and Lebanon.

3. The Arab nation will not throw itself to the peril of nuclear blackmail, regardless of what form it takes. For the first time, we now have an Arab strategy for the peaceful uses of atomic energy to 2020 that must be implemented. Over the years, successive international reports on Israel's nuclear capabilities have given

cause for disquiet. Similarly, the undertaking of any military nuclear programme by States in the region may cause great universal concern. Although accusations are levelled at Iran, the reports of the International Atomic Energy Agency indicate no specific developments in that direction on the part of Iran. This does not, however, prevent me from proposing that:

- We collectively seek a comprehensive regional approach to dealing with the various nuclear dossiers of concern in the region with a view to the establishment of a nuclear-weapons-free zone in the Middle East that encompasses one and all, including Israel;

- We launch an Arab dialogue to pave the way for a regional dialogue aimed at preparing material for a treaty enabling the States of the region to establish peaceful nuclear cooperation, with the relinquishment of military nuclear programmes and accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as preconditions for accession, this being a step towards the establishment of a collective regional security system, which Israel would not be permitted to join except in the context of the conditions already mentioned and the ending of the Arab-Israeli dispute.

I propose to initiate the process by examining the steps needed to establish a regional security system to protect the region against a nuclear arms race and by identifying the main requirements to that end.

4. The mechanisms for pan-Arab security remain the safety valve to which we shall resort in the event of serious developments at a time when we can no longer rely on existing international mechanisms alone, even if we cannot work in isolation from them.

The establishment of the Arab Peace and Security Council resulted from the clear political will on the part of the summit for Arab States to have at their disposal a modern-day apparatus capable of meeting Arab security requirements and monitoring subsequent developments. In previous summits, you responded to the need to develop and amend the regulations needed for the effective operation of this apparatus in its areas of competence. The requirement now, however, is for this summit to look into issuing the mandate required for appropriate participation in the membership of the Council, in its decision-making and in its engagement in preventive diplomacy work, which includes researching and studying the establishment of an Arab framework for peacekeeping operations and the circumstances in which they can operate, in coordination with the United Nations, along the lines of what is done in a number of regional organizations and unions, in particular the African Union.

5. We in the Arab nation are confident - perhaps more so than others - of the need a fair and impartial international criminal court. We are also on the side of justice and the application of justice, but the international courts must remain far from any hint of double standards and also create no risks that have an adverse impact on the lives of the many who seek justice as the basis for their protection. These are the principles that have guided our ongoing action to oppose the decision of the International Criminal Court concerning President Omar Hassan al-Bashir of the Sudan. In this regard, you have before you a draft communiqué, submitted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs, which proposes a specific collective position towards the indictment.

We shall continue to work in cooperation and coordination with the African Union to stop the indictment against President al-Bashir and hope that the world will support this position and appreciate its necessity. We also hope that the requirements for security, stability and the establishment of peace in the Sudan, and in fact throughout the entire region of the Horn of Africa, will be observed.

6. Joint Arab action is no longer carried out in isolation from the international groupings and entities with an influential role, in particular the African Union and the Organization of the Islamic Conference. Furthermore, we have for the first time achieved an institutional structure for dialogue with the European Union in which all Arab States participate, working alongside the Union for the Mediterranean, in which the whole of Europe participates while not all Arabs do. We have also achieved close cooperation, within specific organizational frameworks, with China, India and Turkey and will seek to conclude similar agreements with the Russian Federation and Japan, as well as with other international groupings and entities, detecting as we do an increasing interest in the system of joint Arab action. In this regard, we welcome the convening of the second summit of Arab and South American countries tomorrow, which reflects a genuine development in Arab international relations.

Your Majesties, Excellencies and Highnesses,

When you created the institution of the Arab summit at the Cairo summit in 2000, it was not only a response to a modern-day requirement for development of the League as the parent institution for joint Arab action; it was also a conscious reflection of the interests of the Arab world and the demands of its citizens for a broad Arab solidarity that enables the nation, as a single entity, to channel all of its energies and resources into achieving those things on which people have long pinned their hopes.

This is consequently linked with the progress of Arab reconciliation, for which it is necessary to counter the negative ideas about Arab relations that lie behind our problems in the east, west and south of the Arab world. In fact, it requires us to discuss three associated concepts, namely: reconciliation; Arab solidarity in the face of external problems; and the ability to manage disputes and prevent them from reaching the stage where clashes and quarrels occur. A working paper on that subject has been submitted to the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and we have in fact already begun to discuss it.

Our purposes and ends are no different. Arguments about purposes can imperil both the purposes and the means, whereas arguments about the means may open the doors to enriching the discussion and creating ways of advancing towards the achievement of agreed Arab interests, which is necessary to the accomplishment and acceleration of full reconciliation so that the progress of joint Arab action is neither halted nor impeded, nor its impact extinguished.

I should like to conclude my address by saluting Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Jean Ping, African Union Commission Chairperson, and Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and reiterate my gratitude and appreciation to His Highness the Amir of the State of Qatar.

May peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

Q/21(03/09)/12-Nth(0195)

List of heads of delegations from Arab States participating in the 21st ordinary summit in [Arabic] alphabetical order of member States

His Hashemite Majesty King Abdullah II bin al-Hussein	King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
His Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan	President of the State of the United Arab Emirates
His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa	King of the Kingdom of Bahrain
His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali	President of the Republic of Tunisia
His Excellency Mr. Mourad Medelci	Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
His Excellency President Ismail Omar Guelleh	President of the Republic of Djibouti
The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud	King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
His Excellency President Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir	President of the Republic of the Sudan
His Excellency President Bashar al-Asad	President of the Syrian Arab Republic
His Excellency President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed	President of the Republic of Somalia
His Excellency Mr. Nouri al-Maliki	Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq
His Highness Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmud Al Said	Deputy Prime Minister for Cabinet Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman
His Excellency President Mahmoud Rida Abbas	President of the Palestinian National Authority and Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization
His Highness Shaikh Ahmad bin Khalifa Al Thani	Amir of the State of Qatar
His Excellency President Ahmed Abdallah Mohamed Sambi	President of the Union of the Comoros
His Highness Shaikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah	Amir of the State of Kuwait
Brother Leader Muammar al-Qathafi	Leader of the First of September Revolution of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
His Excellency Dr. Mufid Shihab	Minister of State for Legal and Parliamentary Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt
His Royal Highness Crown Prince Moulay Rachid	Kingdom of Morocco
His Excellency President General Mohamed Ould Abdulaziz	President of the Higher State Council and Head of State of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania
His Excellency President Ali Abdullah Saleh	President of the Republic of Yemen